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Kuwait flexible

Talks in Algiers successful; closer to Opec understanding

ALGIERS, July 6, (Agencies): Kuwait's new Oil Minister Rashid Salem Al Ameri ended talks in Algiers with key Opec colleagues yesterday saying his nation was cutting excess output and could be flexible on demanding a bigger quota.

Amecri, on his first Opec foray met the Algerian President of Opec, Sadek Boussena and Indonesian Oil Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita.

An Opec majority wants an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in Geneva on July 25 to make its priority rescuing prices.

The majority fears that if Kuwait among others does not stop insisting on higher quota, the attempt to restore average prices to a target of \$18 per barrel from under \$14 now could be in jeopardy.

Amecri told reporters that the talks here had gone into the early hours of yesterday and "were successful... I think we came much closer to a common understanding."

Dept for NRIs

Delhi seminar assured

Thomas Abraham and M. C. Bose
Arab Times Correspondent and Business Editor

NEW DELHI, July 6: India has set up a separate division in the External Affairs Ministry to co-ordinate the activities of Indians living abroad and solve their problems.

This was stated by External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral in his inaugural address to a three-day Gulf Non-Resident Indians (NRI) seminar here earlier this week.

The seminar has been organised by the NRI Investors Forum, Kuwait. Gujral urged NRIs, who had achieved success abroad, to use their skills and wealth for the development of India. The country had made great progress over the past four decades since independence, he pointed out.

More than 200 NRIs and about 150 Indian officials, bankers and entrepreneurs are participating in the seminar.

Gujral said the new industrial policy, export-import policy and other initiatives taken by the government in recent months had created a climate congenial for investment and said NRIs should take up the many opportunities opening up in India. He pointed out that about 20 per cent of the country's population constituted a new class of rich consumers and the NRIs could find in them a vast potential market. He also urged the NRIs to help the government tide over the severe balance of payments problems being faced by the country.

On the second day of the meeting, Industry Minister Aji Singh said the country's new industrial policy had been worked out with national priorities in view. Fears about multinational companies taking over the country were due to "misinformation and misapprehensions," he said. Singh felt the time had come for Indian industry to be exposed to international competition. When some of the participants pointed out that incentives offered by India were not sufficient in the context of the opportunities opening up now in Eastern Europe and other parts of the world, Singh said, "we are counting on your patriotic sentiments to disregard many of the problems here."

A. K. Budhiraja, Indian ambassador in Kuwait and the patron of the NRI Investors Forum, said NRIs had become a substantial force in many part of the world, having acquired substantial financial clout and skills.

He said the aim of the Forum was to give an impetus to investments by NRIs in India by creating awareness about the opportunities available here.

According to Budhiraja, the themes selected for the seminar — Taxation, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulations, bank and portfolio investments, project and industrial investments, NRIs contribution in foreign trade and facilities for resettlement and education in India — reflected the major concerns of the NRIs.

Budhiraja said NRIs settled in the Gulf in general and in Kuwait in particular are not allowed to purchase property or to acquire citizenship in those countries. This is one of the reasons they need good resettlement.

(Continued on Page 12)

Age ... less

BOSTON, June 6, (UPI): A synthetic growth hormone used to treat short children also appears to reverse some aspects of the ageing process in the elderly, researchers said on Wednesday.

Scientists at the medical college of Wisconsin in Milwaukee said injections of the hormone over a six-month period reversed 10 to 20 years of ageing with respect to body composition in 12 men aged 61 to 73.

British doctors said today that tests on tissue from a man who died of an unexplained illness over 30 years ago had revealed traces of Aids, suggesting the disease was in existence for decades before being recognised. — Page 2.

Bulgarian President submits to quit calls

SOFIA, July 6, (AP): President Petar Mladenov, whose political party of former communists won Bulgaria's first free election in 58 years last month, submitted his resignation today, state media reported.

Mladenov had been under mounting pressure to step down. Students and opposition parties, who led the calls for his resignation, accused him, among other things, of suggesting that tanks should be used to quell an anti-government rally outside Parliament late last year.

Students, who have been on strike for nearly a month, issued a declaration earlier in the day calling on Bulgarians to wage a 30-minute "warning strike" Saturday if Mladenov did not step down, the state BTA news agency said.

The calls for his resignation came after experts assessed as authentic a videotape in which he was heard to suggest the use of tanks on a large anti-government rally outside Parliament on Dec 14.

In the videotape, broadcast on an election programme by the main opposition alliance Union of Democratic Forces three days before runoff elections last month, Mladenov was heard to say "let the tanks come." No tanks were used.

In his reaction to the experts' conclusion, Mladenov said on state television Wednesday night that the phrase was taken out of context and did not reflect his political career and convictions.

The end of hardline communist rule in Bulgaria came not, as in Romania, Czechoslovakia and East Germany, through street protest, but in a Communist Party coup in which reform-minded comrades, including Mladenov, ousted party chief Todor Zhivkov.



Where to go?

A Vietnamese boy sprints on the floor upon arrival at a Manila airport. The first batch of 32 Vietnamese refugees from Hong Kong relocation camps arrived in Philippines where they will be placed in transit camps. (Reuters wirephoto)

25 Pakistanis among dead

Filipino victims identified

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff

ISLAMABAD, July 6, (Agencies): Some 25 Pakistani pilgrims were killed in the tunnel stampede near the Muslim holy city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia on Monday, the official Associated Press of Pakistan said today.

The figure was reported after Pakistan's federal minister for religious and minority affairs said on Wednesday that no Pakistanis were known to have been involved in the tragedy, the worst disaster ever to strike the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

The news agency said authorities were attempting to determine whether the victims had travelled to Saudi Arabia with the main group from Pakistan or under separate arrangements.

"It is not even known if these persons were working in Saudi Arabia or had come from other countries," the agency said.

Till yesterday official media had been announcing that no Pakistani died in the grim tragedy.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto issued a condolence statement today expressing her shock and grief over the death of Pakistani and others in the unprecedented mishap.

(Continued on Page 12)

"Kuwait is always flexible and the market situation now requires a switch in priority. Although we are concerned about an increase in quota, the big priority is to remedy the market situation," he said.

Asked about market scepticism that Kuwait is cutting output, Amecri said "our production is now within quota."

He said Kuwait bought oil cargoes from Algeria, Libya, Egypt and Nigeria for its world-wide refinery network.

This was "an indication that we have indeed cut our production to the level which was agreed on," Amecri said.

Asked if he would be ready to remain at his current Opec quota beyond September, he said "we will always be flexible and do whatever will serve the market situation."

Indonesian Oil Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita told Reuters after the talks with Amecri that Kuwait now seemed willing to defer any demand for a higher output quota until prices return to Opec's \$18 target.

He (Amecri) is now closer to us," Ginanjar said.

Ginanjar said the Kuwaiti minister had told him and Opec President Boussena that Kuwait supported the \$18 minimum reference price and promised to produce at its assigned quota of 1.5 million barrels daily.

The Algerian minister convened the talks here to continue preparing for a critical Opec conference in Geneva to decide future policy.

The original plan was to try to re-allocate quotas to meet demands by Kuwait and others to sell bigger volumes. But Boussena said the glut and low prices meant ministers must focus on short-term issues.

It was "globally accepted" that it would be very difficult to raise the current ceiling on total Opec output — necessary if individual quotas are to rise — at least until October.

Some members even felt the ceiling should be cut to soak up surplus stocks.

It is set at just above 22 million (Continued on Page 13)

Mad cow-type disease may go undetected

LONDON, July 6, (Reuters): Thousands of people thought to be suffering from senility could have developed a brain disorder similar to "mad cow" disease in cattle, British scientists said in a report published today.

In a study in the authoritative medical journal the Lancet, a team of London scientists said they had found signs of the much rarer human equivalent of "mad cow" disease in people.

Infectious brain diseases are known to affect a number of species. The best known of these disorders is mad cow disease, or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

In the same family of diseases is scrapie in sheep and Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD) in humans. An infection of the same type as "mad cow" disease has also been found in cats, raising fears that the infections can spread between species.

Scientists generally believe CJD to be extremely rare, with only 30 to 40 cases reported every year in Britain.



Graf, Lendl lose

Stefi Graf (left) holds her head in her hand after losing her semifinal match against Zina Garrison (right) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 at the Wimbledon championships. In men's semifinals



Stefan Edberg beat Ivan Lendl 6-1, 7-6, 6-3. And Boris Becker won 4-6, 7-6, 6-0, 7-6. (Reuters wirephoto)

See details on Page 24

No more aggressive, Nato assures Soviets

Pledge to cut nuclear forces

LONDON, July 6, (Agencies): The Nato allies, their 40-year job of containing the Soviet Union nearing its end, today pledged to sharply reduce nuclear and conventional forces and assured the Soviets they hold "no aggressive intentions."

The 16 Western partners promised Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who is under attack from left and right at the 28th Communist Party congress in

Moscow, that they "will never in any circumstance be the first to use force."

To implement that promise, the allies agreed to relegate a shrinking arsenal of short-range nuclear weapons to highly unlikely last-resort use and decided to field instead smaller and restructured ground forces. They also offered to remove 1,470 US nuclear-tipped artillery shells from Europe.

US demands punitive steps

PLO sees nothing new

LONDON, July 6, (Agencies): US President George Bush said today he would resume talks with the PLO if it condemned a commando raid on Israel and punished the plot's mastermind.

Declaring he wanted to revive Middle East peace efforts, Bush said that if the Palestine Liberation Organisation responded, he would urgently consider renewing a dialogue that had been useful.

"What I want to see is the peace process go forward," Bush told a news conference at the end of a two-day Nato summit in London.

Peace efforts have been at a standstill since Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir refused to go along with proposals pushed by Washington and Bush suspended talks with the PLO.



Bush address a press conference

The United States bailed the 18-month dialogue last month, saying PLO leader Yasser Arafat had failed to condemn a May 30 commando attack on Israel.

Bush told reporters: "I would like to think that Arafat could some way bring his council not only to denounce that particular terrorist act but also to take some action against the person who perpetrated it."

"Then I think we would certainly give rapid consideration to renewal of the dialogue," he said. "I happen to think the dialogue has been useful."

"I don't think Arafat particularly agrees with that and I'd be quite confident that Shamir doesn't, but nevertheless that's the view of the United States."

To a question about the stalled peace efforts, Bush said: "We'll do everything we can to encourage discussion that will end up in peace."

"There has got to be talks. The Palestinians have to attend these talks, and so the ground rules are out there and we've got to go forward," Bush said.

PLO officials said today they saw nothing new in US president's statement of conditions for resuming talks with the organisation.

The PLO officials said the conditions appeared to be exactly the same as those set by Washington in the weeks leading up to the suspension of the dialogue on June 20.

"It doesn't seem new but I'd like to see the whole text," said Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to Arafat.

The Washington Post said today Washington was trying to devise a formula allowing Arafat to show he was serious about renouncing "terrorism" without upsetting other PLO leaders.

But Washington still wanted Mohammed Abbas, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Front which carried out the raid, to be disciplined, it added.

14 killed in blast at Texas plant

HOUSTON, July 6, (Reuters): At least 14 people were killed in an explosion and fire at a petrochemical plant east of Houston late yesterday, officials said today.

The explosion may have occurred when workers at the Atlantic Richfield Co (Arco) plant tried to start a generator near a waste water tank containing hydrocarbons, plant officials said.

"The last we heard, there were 14 dead," a spokesman said.

Arens intends to relax army's grip on Palestinians: report; Israel raids bases in Lebanon

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 6, (Agencies): Israel's new defence minister intends to relax the army's grip in the occupied lands to lay the groundwork for a new peace initiative, a report said today.

The move by the right-wing Defence Minister Moshe Arens is aimed at avoiding outbursts in US aid, which Israel fears may follow the present stalemate in peace efforts, the Hebrew daily Yedioth Ahronot reported.

The new plan is being prepared by Arens as it becomes apparent that the US-supported idea of preliminary Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo will not get off the ground, wrote Ron Ben-Yishai, a respected military commentator.

Israeli hardliners have rejected the American proposal, fearing it would mean negotiating with PLO representatives.

Israel views the PLO as a terrorist group. Palestinians insist that the PLO is their sole legitimate representative. The Bush administration has shown an increasing impatience with Israel's reluctance to start talking to Palestinians.

Arens wants to bypass the problematic Cairo talks and the issue of PLO role by initiating a series of confidence-building measures culminating in municipal elections.

Arens hopes to then enter into direct negotiations with elected city officials over Israeli proposals to grant Palestinians limited autonomy, Ben-Yishai said.

According to Yedioth, Arens plans to introduce a series of steps aimed at building up trust among Palestinians.

The most significant measure being considered is a partial pullback of troops from Palestinian population centres, long demanded by Palestinian leaders in order to avoid clashes, the paper said.

Naveh indicated that such a move was not ruled out, saying that "our presence in towns and refugee camps is contingent on the level of Palestinian violence."

Late last month, Arens ordered troops redeployed along the main roads in the occupied territories, emphasizing travel security for Jewish settlers at the expense of patrols

in Palestinian towns.

Israeli warplanes raided Palestinian bases in Syrian-policed north and east Lebanon today after patrolling south Lebanese airspace overnight.

Police said eight commandos of the Libyan-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command were wounded in the simultaneous air attacks carried out at 7.30 am (0430 GMT).

The attacks by four Israeli jet fighters targeted PFLP-GC bases on the southern edge of Sultan Yacoub in the eastern Bekaa valley and near the Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr El Bared in north Lebanon.

(Earlier story p. 1)

AGAIN I want to remind newly appointed ministers that opportunities should be extended to those who have been deprived of their posts due to their having no influence.

The country has the qualifications and we should not look at the area they come from or residence. We are only interested in ensuring that they are provided opportunities to serve their country and to also serve citizens without discrimination.

Zahed Matar

Aids may be older than scientists think, say researchers

LONDON, July 6, (UPI): Aids may have existed earlier than scientists believed, according to a report published today, which said that specialists confirmed that a former British sailor died of the disease in 1959.

Three researchers at the University of Manchester Medical School, writing in the British medical

journal the Lancet, said their findings came after they re-examined the patient records and tissue samples of a former Royal Navy seaman.

New tests revealed that the seaman died of full-blown Aids in 1959 — about 22 years before the fatal disease was identified as Aids, the virologists said.

Previously, the first documented report of the fatal disease that became known as Aids appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1981.

"Taking into account the incubation time of several years between infection and development of the full-blown disease, the seaman would have

contracted the virus in the early 1930s," one of the researchers, Dr Andrew Bailey, told the Times newspaper.

Bailey and fellow researchers Gerald Corbett and George Williams said the case raised questions about the origins of the disease.

"It also demolishes the idea held by some people that the Aids virus could have been a man-made, genetically engineered organism released accidentally or deliberately from the laboratory," Bailey said.

The seaman, aged 25, died in a hospital in Manchester, 197 miles (317 km) northwest of London.

Williams reported in the Lancet at the time that the man's death was unique to his experience of pneumonia accompanied by overwhelming complications and secondary infections.

Williams reminded colleagues of the case when Aids became officially recognised in the early 1980s.

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8 Aids victims helped to 'die'

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, July 6, (AP): The director of an Aids support group says he's helped eight Aids sufferers commit suicide by providing them with large doses of prescription drugs.

"I've been at the bedside of more than 100 people at the moment of their death. Eight of those people I've helped," said David Lewis, 38, who also is being treated for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Lewis, a director of the Vancouver Persons with Aids Society, said he obtained prescription drugs and put enough for a fatal overdose within reach of the patients, who usually are bedridden.

"I think it's immoral and unethical to not help someone die if that's what they want," he said Tuesday.

Lewis said he wouldn't help people commit suicide over nothing more than emotional despondency, but maintained that people nearing death and in pain from Aids face different circumstances.

"I've not pushed pills down anybody's throat," he said. "But I've certainly complied with people's desires."

It is a crime in Canada to counsel or assist a suicide. Some people have been tried for such acts in the United States but there is no record of a conviction in Canada.

Lewis said he received legal advice that he would not be convicted if he withheld the names of the eight people.

Pop star's father charged with rape

BRISBANE, Australia, July 6, (UPI): The father of American pop star Bobby Brown, travelling with his touring son, appeared in a Brisbane court on charges he raped a teenage girl in a hotel room, a police spokesman said.

Herbert James Brown, 60, a disabled war veteran and father of nine children, appeared in court yesterday where a preliminary hearing was scheduled for Aug 20. Bobby Brown posted his father's \$40,000 bail.

The elder Brown met two 16-year-old girls at a Brisbane night club Wednesday and invited them back to his hotel room for drinks, police said.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Fourth of July

Americans and their admirers around the globe threw the United States a star-spangled Independence Day party on Wednesday, celebrating the nation's 214th birthday with a special zest in a year when the very word "Independence" has taken on new meaning world-wide.

"It's a very sensitive moment for me and very exciting," said Adal Rizk, a native Egyptian who was sworn in as a US citizen with 471 other immigrants in Seattle ceremony. "My dream came true. It's my biggest day."

Traditional parades, fireworks and family barbecues vied for attention with such non-traditional commemorations as a cookout for the homeless in Washington DC, and an official Fourth of July ceremony in communist Bulgaria.

Edgar families began gathering by 6 am for Boston's celebration, the annual evening Boston Pops Concert along the Charles river capped by a 20-minute finale and 2 tons of fireworks.

Above: A brilliant fireworks display illuminates the Washington monument. (Reuter wirephoto)

Blood chemical may ease heart damage: Researchers said on Thursday they had found a chemical produced by human blood cells that appears to prevent the heart damage that occurs when the flow of blood to the heart muscle is restored after a heart attack.

"If you can prevent that damage in humans, then you can prevent a lot of patients from dying or suffering severe injury from heart attacks," Dr Allan Leifer of Jefferson Medical College told Reuters.

Almost 90 per cent of heart attacks are caused by blockages in the vessels that supply the heart muscle with blood. But scientists are finding that these blockages can damage the heart in two distinct ways.

Heart muscle cells start dying as soon as the flow of blood to the heart is cut off or reduced, depriving the cells of food and oxygen. (Reuter)

Ozone-depleting gas leaked: More than two tonnes of a gas which damages the Earth's ozone layer seeped into the atmosphere during an accident at a British research base, a spokesman for the centre said on Wednesday.

He said the chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gas spilled from a broken pipe during trials of a cooling process used in nuclear experiments at the centre at Culham, southern England. (Reuter)

Japan girl crushed to death: A Japanese girl dashing to classes was crushed to death yesterday by her school's heavy iron gates being swung closed by teachers, a television station reported.

NHK public broadcasting network said police were questioning three teachers in connection with the death of 15-year-old Ryoko Ishida at Takamatsu public high school in the port city of Kobe.

The teachers, who were making sure the gates closed punctually at 8.30 am, apparently did not notice the student trying to squeeze through, NHK quoted the headmaster as saying. (Reuter)

Japan firm apologizes to Chinese: A Japanese construction company has apologized for its treatment of about 1,000 Chinese who were coerced into working for the firm during World War II, company officials said yesterday.

Officials of Kajima Corp., a leading construction firm, met with six of the former workers and two surviving relatives of the forced labourers on Thursday.

In December, a group of Chinese who were employed between 1944 and 1945 at a construction site in northern Japan demanded that the company apologize for cruel treatment of the 986 workers.

During the period, 418 workers allegedly died of overwork or torture or were killed when a revolt by the workers was quelled by Japanese security forces. (AP)

Bomb blasts in London: Two dummy bombs were found in London underground stations yesterday morning following a small explosion in the Strand in central London.

Although the Strand is one of London's busiest streets, there were no casualties and little damage as a result of the explosion, UK police confirmed.

A man was reported to have seen someone planting the device in a rubbish bin shortly before the bomb went off. (Kuna)

Sun mocks southern California: Southern California is paying the price for being the land of endless sunshine — it has become the drought capital of the United States.

As once-green lawns turn brown, worried officials say the situation can only get worse and there is little they can do.

Summer lowers men's fertility, say researchers

BOSTON, July 6, (UPI): Men appear to produce substantially fewer sperm in summer than in winter, which may help explain why birth rates are lower nine months later in the spring, researchers said.

A study of 131 men in San Antonio, Texas, who worked at least four hours daily in summer heat found that the number and concentration of their sperm was significantly lower in summer, Dr C. Brandon Chenault said Wednesday.

The study also found that a disproportionately low number

of children were born to the men and their wives in the springtime, possibly because the men were less fertile in the preceding summers, he said.

The ability of heat to diminish sperm production may play a role in the lower springtime birth rates that are seen in many non-equatorial parts of the globe, Chenault and co-researchers reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The study "clearly shows that sperm counts are significantly lower in the summer and that heat is an important factor" in

causing the seasonal variation, said Chenault, of Medical Research Associates.

But he said the increased light exposure that many men experience in the summer may also be a factor, possibly influencing an organ in the brain known as the pineal gland. The gland affects hormones that trigger

sperm production.

In the summer samples, the scientists found average sperm concentrations were 32 per cent less than in winter.

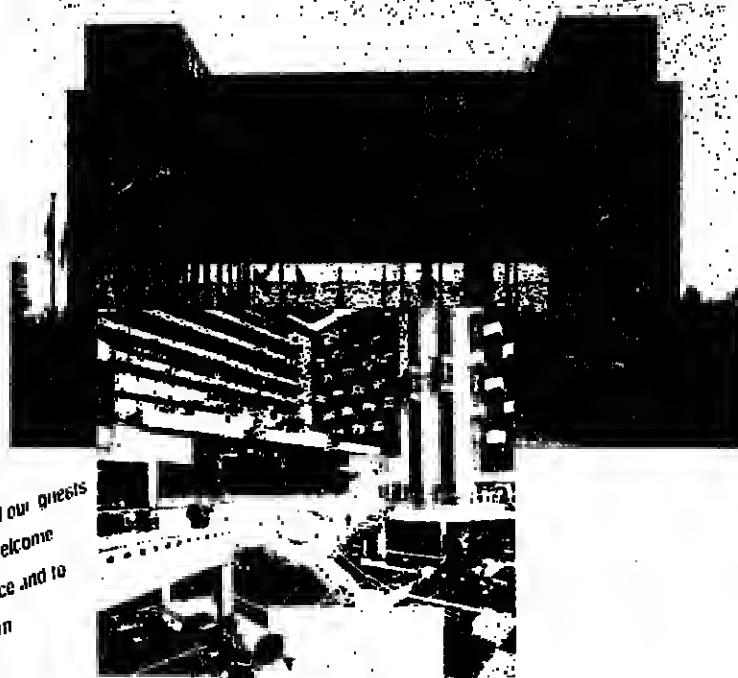
When the researchers tested other factors they believed might influence sperm counts, they found nothing other than the seasonal differences.

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Rolling Stones in action

Mick Jagger and Ron Wood of the Rolling Stones play to a capacity crowd at London's Wembley Stadium at the start of the band's world tour on July 4. (Reuters wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

GRAND ISLAND, Nebraska: It took almost three hours to seat the 21 groomsmen and 21 bridesmaids when Yvonne Garcia and Raymond Mora were married.

"We just didn't want to leave anyone out," said Mora, 29. "The bigger the better, with more people happy."

Mrs. Mora, also 29, said the relatives and friends in the wedding party Saturday "have been waiting for us to get married a long time."

Best man Daniel Mora, the groom's brother, said it took 20 minutes to march into the sanctuary of St. Mary's Cathedral. (AP)

OLD SAYBROOK, Connecticut: Katherine Hepburn is auctioning off one of her paintings to benefit a wildlife organization.

It is the only painting she has even offered for public sale or view, said the Oscar-winning actress, who has been painting since the 1930s.

The work is an impressionistic look at the Beverly Hills valley, somewhat hidden by hills and framed by a white rail fence.

"I do hope it will bring a price, although I wouldn't give you a nickel for it," joked the lifelong summer resident of the exclusive community. (AP)

DOWNTOWN, Pennsylvania: A teenager whose date to the prom stood her up got a date in court instead and was awarded \$79.50 to cover her costs.

"In the future, I will only ask someone who I can trust," Dana Jurist said Tuesday.

Miss Jurist, who attends Downton Senior High School outside Philadelphia, said she and Norbeck agreed to accompany her to the junior prom in May after she mentioned she did not have a date.

She said she had known Norbeck about five months through their jobs at a supermarket. He had graduated from high school four years earlier.

Miss Jurist said Norbeck's mother told him he had a virus on prom day, but a friend of his said he actually was going to a rock concert.

Norbeck's family said he would have no comment. (AP)

CLEBURNE, Texas: The only thing standing between the Mosley family and their dream home is about 250,000 tires.

But Willie Mosley, Jr. and his family believe that the 2.47 acres (0.99 hectares) of land they bought at a constable's auction is a bargain at \$313, despite the mountain of work they face clearing away the radials discarded on the property.

"We're just working people," said Mosley's wife Carol. "Where else are we going to be able to buy a piece of land for \$313, and all you have to do is clear some tires off of it?"

Johnson county officials had foreclosed on the property because previous landowners owned back taxes. Officials then discovered the tires that litter the landscape. (AP)

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'Offence to good taste'

Madonna show slammed

ROME, July 6. (Reuters) Italy's Catholic establishment has slammed pop concerts by Italian-American singer Madonna as offensive and started a campaign to stop her European tour reaching Italy.

The Catholic News Agency Sir, which reflects opinions of the Italian Bishops' Conference, hit out at Madonna's use of crucifixes and sacred symbols in concerts and videos.

"Her new show, with the symbols it uses and the values it expresses, is an offence to good taste," it said on Wednesday.

Madonna, 29, whose grandparents were born in Italy and who was brought up a Catholic, is due to play three concerts in Rome and Turin next week.

The Catholic lobby group, Famiglia Domani (the Family Tomorrow), said it had written to the Cardinal of Rome, Ugo Poletti, asking him to "stop this shameful spectacle taking place in Rome - a city dear to millions of Catholics."



Social activist dies

Mitch Snyder, (shown above) a social activist who led hunger strikes near the White House to publicise the plight of homeless people in America, was found dead on Thursday, an apparent suicide in a shelter he helped establish.

Snyder, 46, whose life story was made into a television movie, was found dead in his room at the 1,400-bed shelter. A spokesman for his organisation, the Committee for Creative Non-Violence, told a news conference.

Snyder, who apparently died by hanging, reportedly was depressed since Washington last month repealed the capital's 'right-to-shelter' law, which guaranteed shelter to anyone in an atmosphere of dignity.

Snyder had nearly died during several fasts and hunger strikes to protest against city and government policies he felt were inadequate to help homeless people.

A wiry man with long, straggly hair, Snyder enlisted movie stars such as Martin Sheen in his pursuit of government and private donations for the homeless and Federal funding for low and middle-income people. (Reuters wirephoto)

SYDNEY, Australia: Con Varnabas does not let his work go to his head. But it adorns many of the best-coiffed attorneys in the country.

Varnabas, 47, is Australia's last wigmaker to the bar, sort of the equivalent of the royal dressmaker.

He works out of his one-room tailor's shop in Sydney, where he also makes other apparel for barristers. It is a centuries-old craft that he learned 31 years ago from a tailor in London.

The painstaking process requires turning long strands of imported horse or yak hair into the wigs that put the pomp and ceremony into the legal profession. (AP)

SAN FERNANDO, California: A man was convicted of first-degree murder and gang membership in what prosecutors said was the first Los Angeles County conviction under a two-year-old state law.

The anti-gang-membership law can add three years to a prison sentence stemming from a separate felony conviction.

Jurors on Tuesday convicted 23-year-old Manuel Madrigal in the slaying of Jimmie Torres, 16. Sentencing was scheduled for July 23. Prosecutors said only Orange and Riverside counties had won convictions under the law.

TAMPA, Florida: A man who claims he won a \$1,304 bet at a dog-racing track has gone to court five times trying to try to collect on a dog that crossed the finish line tail-first and upside down.

"I'm like David fighting Goliath. I'm gonna win this thing," said Alfred Akchidak, 70, whose lawsuit against Tampa Greyhound Track, its officials and the state pari-mutuel board was rejected by a judge Friday for a fifth time. (AP)

MONTAUK, New York: A fisherman plans to make steaks with the 710-pound (322-kilogramme) mako shark he caught off Long Island, a marine spokeswoman said.

Ray Beane of Yorktown Heights caught the shark Tuesday afternoon with a rod-and-reel on a charter boat in the Atlantic, 30 miles (50 kilometres) south of Montauk. It was the largest of its kind seen in years in the area.

Rusty Botta, a Montauk Marine Basin spokeswoman, said biologists plan to study the female shark before it is eaten.

The mako is a dangerous shark that looks similar to the great white shark in the movie *Jaws*, said Mike Leach, a spokesman for the International Game Fish Association in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A mako has sharper, more pointed teeth. (AP)

BALTIMORE, Maryland: There was just one thing wrong with a Commemorative Cap issued to benefit the city's literacy programme.

The mayor's name was spelled wrong.

The cups were distributed by Coca-Cola to vendors at the 10th anniversary celebration of Baltimore's redeveloped waterfront, which began Monday. They declared that proceeds would benefit "the literacy initiative of Baltimore City's Mayor, Kurt L. Schmoke."

Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke took the error in stride.

"I've heard it was a problem with the Coca-Cola print shop," said Schmoke, laughing at the typographical error. "I guess I'll just have to stay around for another 10 years and see that they get it right next time." (AP)

LAS VEGAS: Soviet-born comic Yakov Smirnoff has nothing funny to report from his first visit in 12 years to his homeland.

"It's a very depressed country," said Smirnoff, 39, who immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1977 and became a citizen in 1986.

"People are in a survival mode. There are still long lines for food, although the lines are even longer now. And if there are no lines, it's because there is no food," he said.

Smirnoff returned to the Soviet Union to tape a TV special.

"I can live another 12 years without going back," he said in a recent interview in Las Vegas.

"I'm in love with America. It's my home, and I feel very much at home." (AP)

FAIRMONT, Minnesota: Radio stations in Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa - all of which have a strong livestock industry - are boycotting Grammy-winning singer K.D. Lang because of her appearance in a Meat Sticks advertising campaign.

Patrick J. Lang, programme director of Kean-Am in Fairmont, said Monday his station won't play Lang's music until she disavows people for the ethical treatment of animals, which put together the campaign. The singer is a vegetarian.

ATLANTA: Stan Costrell, who once ran 3,000 miles (4,800 kilometres) through China, is off on a jog from Berlin's Brandenburg Gate to Moscow's Red Square.

"When you run, you promote friendship first, and peace is the result of that friendship," Costrell, 47, said before leaving for Germany to start his run this week.

The opening of the Berlin Wall and other changes in Eastern Europe made the run possible. Costrell plans to complete the 300-mile (2,000-kilometre) run in 40 days. He will go through 40 cities, covering up to 44 miles (71 kilometres) to promote peace. The idea for the Berlin-to-Moscow run came two years ago, when he ran across Vietnam. (AP)

NEW YORK: His friends include Marcello Mastroianni and Vanessa Redgrave. The mayor of Rome gave him Most Lovable Person of the Year prize. From Milan to Naples to Florence, people stop him in the streets for autographs.

Not bad for a 10-year-old.

"I get letter saying to maintain my naturalness," said Salvatore "Totò" Cascio, who played the movie-smitten projectionist's assistant in *Cinema Paradiso*, which won the Academy award for best foreign film. "Everyone wants to have my picture."

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Hormone shots can arrest aging

Treatment not fountain of youth

BOSTON, July 6, (AP): Giving injections of growth hormone to old people can build up their muscles, melt away their flab and reverse the ravages of two decades of aging in just six months, a news study shows.

Doctors caution that this treatment is not quite the fountain of youth. Many effects of old age, such as failing eyes and dying brain cells, are beyond its reach.

But it is perhaps as close as science has come to that impossible goal. Not only did the shots stop some of the most visible consequences of the march of time, they actually restored the physiques of an age long past.

However, experts warn that considerably more research about the safety and effects of this approach will be necessary before it becomes a routine part of care for the elderly.

"This is a very preliminary finding. We are not ready to recommend growth hormone for all of the aging people in the world," said Dr Axel G. Feller of Chicago Medical School, a co-author of the study.

The pilot study involved 21 healthy men 61 to 81 years old: 12 received the shots, while nine received no treatment for comparison. The volunteers who got the shots said treatment made them look better and feel stronger, and their wives agreed.

"What we saw over six months was that several of the body composition changes (of aging) were reversed," said Dr Daniel Rudman of the Medical College of Wisconsin, who directed the study. "These represented the reversal of one or two decades of aging with regard to these factors."

Until now, doctors have given this treatment, known as human growth hormone, mostly to children whose growth is retarded because they don't make enough of the protein.

However, the body's production of growth hormone also slows as people reach their 30s. In about one-third of people, it virtually stops by age 60.

"The largest pool of growth hormone deficiency is in the elderly," Rudman said. "This study is an early investigation of whether it may be useful to treat this very, very large number of people who have stopped secretion of human growth hormone."

Such routine treatment would be expensive. The hormone cannot be given in pill form, and in this study people received three injections a week. The size of the dose depends on the patient's weight. Treating a 155-pound (70-kilogramme) man for one year would cost \$13,800 in medicine alone.

Rudman's research was published in the New England Journal of Medicine. In an accompanying editorial, Dr Mary Lee Vance of the University of Virginia described the work as "an important beginning."

But she cautioned, "because there are so many unanswered questions about the use of growth hormone in the elderly and in adults with growth hormone deficiency, its general use now or in the immediate future is not justified."

Among the questions that remain are safety issues about its effect on metabolism, whether it actually improves muscle function, at what age treatment should start and how much of the hormone people need.

While the Wisconsin study found no serious side effects from the hormone, the volunteers' blood pressure and blood sugar levels rose slightly. Rudman said doctors should be cautious in giving the hormone to elderly people who already have these problems.

Rudman said he expects the treatment to be used first for relatively short periods to build up the bodies of frail elderly people, such as those about to undergo surgery.

He said the therapy probably would not make people live longer, but could improve the quality of life. Stronger muscles and healthier skin should result in better mobility, fewer falls and less skin sores.

To prevent, rather than reverse, the effects of aging, treatment might need to start when people are in their 30s or 40s. Rudman said much more research into the possible benefits and hazards will be necessary before such therapy becomes common.



David and Ginger Twitchell (top) listen as a court officer reads a guilty verdict in a Boston courtroom as they were convicted in their manslaughter trial for the death of their 2-1/2-year-old son Robyn on July 4. Bottom: David consoles Ginger as they leave the courtroom. (Reuters wirephoto)

Twitchell ruling blurs Christian Science tenets

BOSTON, July 6, (Reuters): The Christian Science Church, singled by another case of a child dying because the parents obeyed its tenet banning medicine, sees a heightened need to explain teachings that put it at odds with the secular world.

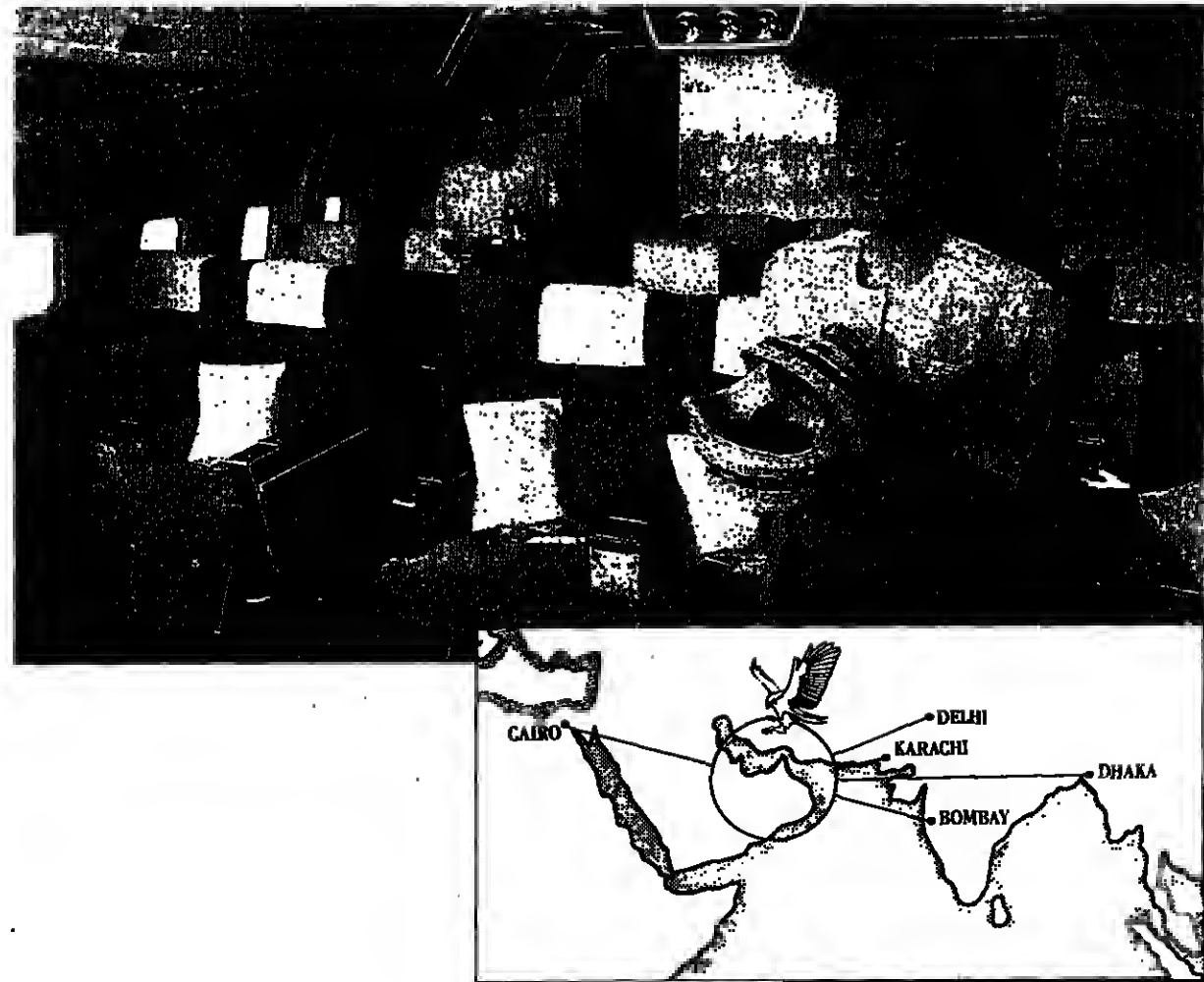
"We see the need more than ever to help society understand what spiritual healing is all about," said Nathan Talbot, chief spokesman for the church.

"Christian Science draws its commitment to spiritual healing from the teaching of Christ Jesus," he said. "Our conviction in the validity of those teachings has not changed."

David and Ginger Twitchell, third generation Christian Scientists, were found guilty of manslaughter on Wednesday in the death from a bowel obstruction of their 2-1/2-year-old son Robyn whom they treated with prayer instead of medicine.

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Rebels reach Monrovia suburbs; top army officer deserts post

MONROVIA, July 6, (AP): Rebel sources in neighbouring Ivory Coast said 4,500 insurgents had reached the suburbs of the capital by yesterday and were preparing to attack President Samuel Doe's remaining forces.

Meanwhile, Doe's top military commander abandoned his post and fled the country, just days after his predecessor also escaped the rebel advance.

A senior rebel leader in the United States accused the US administration of trying to keep rebel leader Charles Taylor from taking

power and said the rebels won't halt their advance to permit new peace talks.

Government troops ransacked shops in the capital Wednesday night under cover of curfew. Troops shot their way into shops, warehouses and restaurants and emptied the shelves in the early hours of last morning.

Rebels battled troops in the city's eastern and western suburbs yesterday for a fourth consecutive day.

For the first time since the fighting began, the Christian missionary station Elwa did not

broadcast on schedule yesterday evening. It is on the outskirts of Monrovia.

Doe's most trusted commander, Lt Gen. Charles Julu, left the country Wednesday. Doe has been deserted by most of his advisers as the rebels have tightened their grip on the capital.

Julu, head of Doe's executive mansion guard since the death in fighting last month of his previous commander, led army troops who killed more than 2,000 civilians in northern Liberia after an unsuccessful coup attempt

against Doe. Julu was sent there again this year but was unable to stop the rebel advance, and his forces again were accused of killing hundreds of civilians.

Julu had been chief of staff for only a few days since the weekend resignation of Lt Gen. Henry Dubar, who also fled.

Rebel sources in Ivory Coast near the Liberian border said their 800-man contingent that had attacked the capital had been reinforced by 4,500 others. The reinforcements brought up heavy armaments cap-

tured from army bases outside Monrovia.

The rebel source said the insurgents had taken Schiefflin, the big military camp 12 miles (19 kilometres) east of Monrovia. The rebels estimated Doe still had 2,000 fighting men in the capital.

A serious food shortage in the city forced people to beg for rice. "Give us food, we are dying," one man said.

As morning broke, frightened Monroviens ventured out into deserted streets and discovered at least 16 bodies after shooting that

continued throughout the third night of looting.

Soldiers roamed the streets in stolen cars, firing in the air to frighten people and keep them back while they looted. The only vehicles on the streets were driven by soldiers who left dead and wounded civilians by the roadside.

A man with three bullet wounds fled for four hours in the city's main waterfront market despite pleas to soldiers to carry him to the hospital.



Guerrilla guns

A little boy sits next to rifles used by FMLN guerrillas on July 3 in the conflictive eastern zone of Morazan Province. The FMLN rebels and right-wing government plan to resume peace talks to put an end to the 10-year civil war. (Reuters wirephoto)

Document links CIA with drug traffickers

LOS ANGELES, July 6, (UPI): The CIA trained Guatemalan guerrillas in the early 1980s at a Mexican ranch owned by a drug baron who murdered US narcotics agent Enrique Camarena, a US Drug Enforcement Administration report revealed yesterday.

The report was based on DEA interviews with Laurence Victor Harrison, a government informant who ran a communications network for drug traffickers, including Rafael Caro Quintero, the owner of the ranch in Vera Cruz, Mexico.

The document, labelled "secret" by the DEA, was released to defence lawyers by US district judge Edward Rafeedie, who said he would hold a hearing "to determine whether or not (Harrison) has any admissible evidence in this case."

In a series of interviews with the DEA, Harrison also said he learned through second-hand information in Mexico that in the early 1980s "the CIA established and maintained clandestine airfields to refuel aircrafts loaded with weapons which were destined for Honduras and Nicaragua."

Harrison told DEA agents the Central Intelligence Agency used pilots for drug traffickers to smuggle the weapons into Central America, apparently to supply the US-backed "Contra" rebels who spent the 1980s trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government at president Ronald Reagan's behest.

Harrison, who testified last month in the trial of four men charged in the murder of Camarena, told the DEA that the CIA used the Mexican federal security police, the federal security directorate, commonly called the DFS, as a cover for the clandestine activities.

On Feb 9, Harrison told DEA agents that he had heard that, from 1981 to 1984, the CIA trained Guatemalan guerrillas at Caro's Vera Cruz ranch.

Panama expels Cuba diplomats

Threat to sever ties

PANAMA CITY, July 6, (UPI): Panama reduced Cuba's diplomatic representation to four members and threatened to sever ties completely if Cuba continues its "hostile conduct" toward President Guillermo Endara.

Foreign Minister Julio Linares issued the warning following the announcement last week that the Cuban diplomatic mission in Panama will be cut down to a charge d'affaires, a commercial, an economic and a consular attaché. The rest of the Cuban diplomatic corps has 10 days to leave the country.

Cuba has been highly critical of Endara's government, which led to the expulsion in March of Cuban Ambassador Lazaro Mora.

"If the Cuban government continues with the same line, we will have to break relations. The first thing was to expel the ambassador, now we are reducing their diplomatic mission, we have no other way out," Linares told reporters.

"We have been given proof of tolerance and flexibility," he added.

There was no immediate comment from the Cuban charge d'affaires about the order.

The Foreign Ministry said the

expulsion was due to "the repeated and systematic hostile conduct shown by the government of the republic of Cuba against the legitimate, elected government of Panama, which has contributed to a deterioration of bilateral relations."

Endara was installed as president during the US invasion of Panama last December that ousted former military ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega. Endara was considered the winner of May 1989 elections, but the election was annulled under Noriega.

The Foreign Ministry cited Cuba's refusal shortly after the invasion to recognise the Endara government's ambassador to the United Nations. The Cuban ambassador said at the time the Endara government was "not representative of the Panamanian people, but of those who seek to impose an invading force."

On Jan 5, Cuban Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez reaffirmed his country's refusal to recognise the Endara government, the statement said.

The ministry cited several other occasions on which Cuba repeated its view that the Endara government was illegitimate.

Quayle smoked pot with convict

WASHINGTON, July 6, (UPI): The Bureau of Prisons denied yesterday that a prison inmate was held incommunicado four days before the 1988 presidential election to silence his allegation that he sold marijuana to Vice-President Dan Quayle.

The prisoner, held in a federal prison in El Reno, Oklahoma, was placed in a special punishment cell in November 1988 on orders of Bureau of Prisons director J. Michael Quinn, a highly unusual move.

But Bureau of Prisons spokesman Greg Bogdan said the convict — Brett Kimberlin — was ordered into special detention out of concern for his safety, not as a result of his allegations about the vice-president.

Kimberlin has filed a lawsuit in US District Court alleging that Quinn and former Justice Department spokesman Loyd W. Miller Jr conspired to silence him to protect the Republican ticket of George Bush and Quayle.

Miller would not comment. Kimberlin, who is serving a 50-year sentence for drug smuggling and participating in a series of 1978 bombings in Speedway, Indiana, says he smoked marijuana with Quayle at a fraternity party in Bloomington, Indiana, in 1971.

He also says he sold marijuana to Quayle more than a dozen times during the next several years.

A spokesman for Quayle has denied the vice-president used marijuana and Kimberlin has offered no corroboration for his story.

Kimberlin's suit said he was placed in "administrative detention" and barred from talking to reporters four days before the 1988 election.

He was allowed out after one day in the special detention but then ordered back into a punishment cell on the morning of the Nov 7 election to prevent him from calling reporters gathered at a Washington hotel to hear his story, the lawsuit said.

Bogdan, the Bureau of Prisons spokesman, said Kimberlin was placed in the punishment cell on Quinn's orders after the Justice Department spokesman learned from a reporter that the prisoner feared for his safety.

If the Bureau of Prisons had wanted to silence Kimberlin, Bogdan said, it would not have allowed American television NBC News to conduct a videotaped interview with him before he was first placed under detention.

Federal prisons officials learned from the reporter that Kimberlin feared for his safety, Bogdan said.

Blast wounds 27 blacks

White right-wing extremists threaten to increase attacks

JOHANNESBURG, July 6, (Agencies): An explosion probably caused by a bomb wounded 27 blacks in a crowded Johannesburg bus terminal during the morning rush hour today, police and hospital officials said.

"There was blood everywhere," said witness Nhlambhla Mbatha. "It was only black people who got injured. People were crying and screaming."

Police spokesman Colonel Frans Malherbe said the explosion, the city's sixth in a week, was probably caused by a bomb placed inside a dustbin but investigations continued. White extremists have claimed responsibility for the five previous blasts.

The blast sent glass shards and concrete chunks scything into crowds of bus passengers. Flying debris gouged holes in three cars and a mini-van.

"One man had a huge gash in his left thigh. Blood was just pouring out," magazine editor Mbatha said.

Ambulances with sirens wailing edged through traffic jams to collect wounded people lying across a rubble-strewn street and pavement.

Johannesburg hospital spokeswoman Jennifer Gillwald said 27 people were being treated for wounds from the blast.

Malherbe said no-one had claimed responsibility for causing the explosion in a street used mainly by black commuters travelling into work from outlying townships.

White extremists called the White Wolves said they carried out a series of five bombings



A traffic policeman carries an injured woman away from a bus terminal July 6 in Johannesburg where an explosion probably caused by a bomb wounded 24 people and damaged buildings. The bus station is used mainly by blacks. Anti-apartheid groups suspect white rights have launched a bomb campaign. (Reuters wirephoto)

that began last Friday in protest against reforms by President F.W. de Klerk designed to end 40 years of formal race segregation.

An extreme right-wing group linked to a series of bombings yesterday threatened to increase its attacks unless De Klerk holds elections to retain apartheid, a newspaper reported.

Anti-apartheid organisations said the five bombings aimed at liberal politicians, an anti-apartheid newspaper and a synagogue were the start of a right-wing terror campaign.

The White Wolves also demanded the release from jail of a white man sentenced to death for murdering seven blacks in a shooting spree in Pretoria in 1988.

The black National Union of Mineworkers discovered a large bomb at its offices in a town near Johannesburg yesterday. The device was fixed to the building beside a taxi rank used by hundreds of blacks every day.

A bomb destroyed the union's offices earlier this year in the town of Welkom south of Johannesburg. The union blamed right-wing groups.

Police said five people were killed and 107 were detained in political or labour unrest around the country in the previous 24 hours.

Three black guerrillas armed with automatic rifles attacked a police station in Emthonjeni east of Pretoria, killing a policeman.

Police returned fire, killing one of the attackers. The other two guerrillas escaped, according to a daily police report on unrest.

Police shot dead two people among a crowd of blacks stoning a school headmaster's house in Tsweleng in western Transvaal and killed one of several blacks staging an illegal demonstration in Namahadi in Orange Free State province.

The burnt body of a black man was found in Tsweleng in the Western Cape.

Police said they had arrested three African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas planning to assassinate leaders of the rival black Inkatha movement in troubled Natal province.

They possessed hand grenades at the time of their arrest several days ago. Two of them had recently entered the country illegally, Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok said.

A panicked white motorist yesterday drove into a crowd of black protesters, killing four, and was then killed by a mob, police said.

The incident began when demonstrators, angered by bus fare increases, ordered hundreds of passengers to get off dozens of buses at a depot in the black homeland of KwaZulu, northeast of Pretoria.

Two buses were set alight and several were stoned, while the passengers gathered on and alongside the road, police said.

The government has agreed to pay about 80 people who were detained without trial a total of 120,500 rand (\$45,000), the independent South African Press Association reported.

Mandela given joyous welcome

Ugandans jam airport

ENTEBBE, Uganda, July 6, (AP): Nelson Mandela, nearing the end of a wearying and sometimes controversial tour of Europe, the United States and Africa, arrived here Thursday to a tumultuous welcome from dance troupes and drummers.

Mandela, coming from London where he pressed for continued economic sanctions against South Africa, landed at the shores of Lake Victoria, where he was greeted by President Yoweri Museveni, cabinet ministers and members of the diplomatic corps.

Mandela, the deputy president of the African National Congress inspected a military guard of honour. He made no speeches upon his arrival.

Mandela, accompanied by his wife Winnie, leaves Sunday to attend the annual summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity in Ethiopia.

Thousands of Ugandans jammed the airport and many more lined the 21-mile route to the capital, Kampala, in an attempt to glimpse Africa's best known former political prisoner.

Mandela's visit coincided with those of Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, who were stopping over on their way to the OAU meeting. An African diplomat, speaking on condition he not be identified, said Mandela likely would brief the two of his journey.

During his tour that began June 6, Mandela, 71, drew con-

troversy in the United States for staging support for Cuban leader Fidel Castro. In Ireland he urged talks between Britain and the Irish Republican Army, remarks that drew swift criticism in London, which was his next stop.

Meanwhile, Mandela is following up on a Rockefeller Foundation idea for a bank that would channel international investment to South Africa once the apartheid system is abolished.

Foundation head Peter E. Goldmark said Wednesday that Mandela wants to "have it ready to go when a representative government in South Africa is chosen."

Mandela, Goldmark and several officials of the African National Congress met in London on Tuesday to continue discussions and form a working group.

Goldmark made the proposal at a June 22 meeting between the anti-apartheid leader and business leaders in New York.

He likened it then to the Marshall Plan, which helped war-ravaged Europe 40 years ago, and efforts now being made to help Eastern European countries recover from communism.

Other executives at the meeting said the idea appeared to generate strong interest and Mandela called the proposal "constructive and imaginative."

Goldmark said in a telephone interview from his Brooklyn home on Wednesday that the hour-long, follow-up meeting was held at Mandela's request.

Kenya arrests 3 more people

NAIROBI, Kenya, July 6, (AP): Three more people were arrested Thursday in a crackdown against proponents of multi-party democracy, while the wives of the two most prominent detainees appealed to the government not to torture their husbands.

Thursday's arrests, of two lawyers and of the son of a former Kenyan vice-president, brought to at least ten the number of people detained since Wednesday by the single-party government, according to detainees' families and other sources close to opposition figures.

The arrests follow months of official criticism of those calling for reform, and come in advance of a rumoured rally for multi-party democracy that the government has vowed to prevent.

Two former cabinet ministers detained in the crackdown had asked the government for permission to hold a meeting tomorrow in support of legalising political opposition, which has been outlawed since 1982.

The request was not granted but rumours have been widespread in this East African capital that crowds might nonetheless appear.

President Daniel Arap Moi has warned people against attending. The former cabinet ministers, Kenneth Matiba and Charles Rubia, were seized Wednesday by plainclothes security agents. In a press release Thursday their wives, Edith Matiba and Hannah Rubia, said that "our husbands' arrest is intended to force curtailment of the multi-party debate (and) stop lawful and peaceful changes which are crucial if Kenya is to avoid the well-trodden path of so many other African states."

The government has agreed to pay about 80 people who were detained without trial a total of 120,500 rand (\$45,000), the independent South African Press Association reported.

General strike

Nicaragua workers pledge

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, July 6, (AP): Air traffic controllers and electrical workers pledged to join a general strike by supporters of the ousted Sandinista leadership that threatens to paralyse the country.

President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has declared the strikes illegal and accused the leftist Sandinistas of trying to undermine her government's economic recovery programme.

The Sandinistas, who spearheaded the walkouts that began Monday, accuse Chamorro's 2-month-old conservative government of breaking a promise not to fire public employees.

They also accuse the government of violating the constitution by denying union leaders a say in making economic policy.

Sandinista-led strikes in May won government employees a 100 per cent salary increase and other concessions from Chamorro's administration.

Banking, postal and telephone services were disrupted and hundreds of government employees held sit-in strikes in public buildings.



Sandinista supporters shout slogans on Thursday outside the Ministry of Labour where negotiations between Labour Minister Francisco Rosales and a delegation led by pro-Sandinista union leader, Lucio Jimenez were underway to end a workers' strike. (Reuters wirephoto)



A student laughs while being chased by a Sandinista riot policeman during a demonstration in front of the government building on Thursday. About 500 students broke through a cordon of riot police to protest measures taken by the Chamorro government affecting the universities, and as show of support for striking workers. (Reuters wirephoto)

سازمان اطلاعات

US hails use of aid funds by Manila

MANILA, July 6, (UPI): A US official expressed satisfaction today at the use by the Philippine government of funds generated from a multilateral assistance programme for the debt-ravaged country.

But the official, Elliot Richardson, said he concurred with a report by the American chamber of commerce of the Philippines finding that bureaucratic red tape, political instability and a hostile congress were driving away foreign investors.

The United States initiated the "mini-Marshall Plan" for the Philippines to help strengthen democracy after President Corason Aquino was swept to power in a civilian-backed military revolt in 1986.

The programme, alternately called Multilateral Assistance Programme or Philippine Assistance Programme, was formally launched in Tokyo one year ago when 19 countries and six agencies pledged more than \$3.3 billion for development projects.

"I get a feeling on the part of the donors that the programme is moving very well," Richardson, President Bush's special envoy to the programme, told a news conference.

Richardson said the US General Accounting Office recently conducted a review of Washington's participation in the programme and other projects by the Agency for International Development and "found progress has been accelerated and programmes were moving forward very successfully."

He said Bush had recommended \$200 million in aid for the programme this year. During the Tokyo meeting last year, the United States pledged to contribute \$1 billion over the next five years.

Richardson, who arrived Saturday for his third visit to the Philippines to look into the implementation of the programme, also dismissed as incorrect widely published criticism that there was a "pipeline problem."

"I think it's fair to say that the performance of the Philippines in accelerating the use of funds in the pipeline has been regarded as well accomplished," he said, "and that there are measures in place that will continue to improve the pace at which these resources are put to effective use," he said.

But Richardson, discussing the chamber of commerce report, said he thought the Philippines, which is saddled with a \$28 billion external debt and badly needs foreign investment to put itself on an even keel, had placed itself in a "position of comparative disadvantage."

Richardson said it would help if the Philippine government and its congress took "further action to streamline the investment process, cut down on impediments to it and the time it takes to reach definitive answers to investment proposals."

He said he expected the next pledging session for the Philippines assistance plan to take place either in late October or early November in Washington.

Manila rebels to free US volunteer, Japan aid worker

NPA commanders warn against rescue operation

MANILA, July 6, (Reuters): Philippine communist guerrillas said today they would release this month a US Peace Corps volunteer and a Japanese aid worker they were holding, but warned the two might be killed if soldiers tried to rescue them.

The rebels, in an interview with Philippine reporters, said Timothy Swanson, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Japanese Fumio Mizuno were safe and were being held on Negros island on suspicion of involvement in the government's anti-insurgency campaign.

"We will turn them over within the month but an offensive by the enemy might endanger their lives," a New People's Army (NPA) commander who identified himself as KA (comrade) Efron said in the interview.

A transcript of the interview in Negros was made available in Manila.

The commander warned soldiers not to attempt a rescue, saying: "We will engage them to protect our territory. The two foreigners may be hurt, or worse still, get killed."

In a face-to-face battle, they (the military) might not get back the two alive," he added.

US embassy spokesman Stanley Schragar said US officials were glad to hear the two aid workers were safe. "We are urging their safe return soon," he said.

Mizuno, a director for the private aid group Organisation for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA) was kidnapped

while visiting a silkworm farm on May 29.

Swanson was abducted from his home on June 13, two weeks before the US embassy ordered the withdrawal of all 261 Peace Corps volunteers from the country for fear of communist attacks.

The abductions took place in remote rebel-controlled villages of Negros island in the central Philippines, 480 km (300 miles) south of Manila.

The NPA has been fighting the government for 21 years and has demanded the withdrawal of US military forces from Philippine bases.

Efron said the rebels did not want ransom for Swanson and Mizuno. "We are not bandits," he said.

He said the two foreigners had been "invited to dialogue" with the NPA about the rebels' suspicion they were involved in anti-insurgency operations. He said "they gave us much information."

We will spare them this time. But we will not be so kind next time," the rebel leader said.

He said the NPA was not after all aid workers but only those helping President Corason Aquino's government in its anti-insurgency drive.

The US and Japanese embassies have denied that Americans and Japanese are involved in the insurgency war.

In the Negros provincial capital of

Bacolod, a civilian emissary in touch with the NPA said he learned the rebels were preparing to release Mizuno soon after determining he had not given information to the military.

"Even if they are guilty, we will spare them this time. But we will not be so kind the next time," said the guerrilla leader.

He said that not all the aid workers in the country were NPA targets, adding that they were only against those helping President Corason Aquino's government in its "war policy" against the NPA.

Efron accused one of six Peace Corps volunteers assigned on Negros of giving information to the military on rebel movements.

Efron said the NPA was preparing charges against OISCA and the Peace Corps, but did not elaborate. He warned the military against any attempt to rescue Swanson and Mizuno.

"If they do (attempt a rescue), we will engage them to protect our territory. The two foreigners may be hurt, or worse still, get killed," he said.

The rebel commander said the guerrillas were treating Swanson "with respect" and added "we like Americans as long as they don't co-operate with their government's dirty tricks."

Troops captured a remote mountain camp from communist rebels in the central Philippines, killing 16 guerrillas, the military said yesterday.



Philippine grade school pupils hang posters outside their school building in the central Philippine island of Negros July 5 demanding the return of US Peace Corps volunteer Tim Swanson. Communist guerrillas claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Swanson and a Japanese aid worker. (Reuters wirephoto)



Five slain

Philippine military agents in plainclothes remove from a taxicab the bodies of two of five suspected robbers they killed in the Manila financial district of Makati July 5, after a street chase across the capital. Police said the five slain men were about to rob a grocery when security forces saw them. (Reuters wirephoto)

Phnom Penh rejects Khmer peace bid

BANGKOK, July 6, (AP): An agreement on arranging a cease-fire in Cambodia is in danger of unravelling as the warring factions again quarrel over the role of the Khmer Rouge, the largest and most feared guerrilla group.

The fighting has widened since the agreement June 5 in Tokyo. And the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh has been tirelessly trading bitter accusations with the Khmer Rouge that show there has been no progress on the most basic issues.

The forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk said yesterday that on Wednesday they had beaten back a six-pronged attack by the Phnom Penh forces on positions in the central province of Kompongthom. The guerrillas say they have taken almost complete control of

the province. Government forces struck positions along national roads 6 and 12 at 4 am, they said in a statement. The roads converge near the provincial capital, also called Kompongthom, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Phnom Penh.

Government forces fled to the town after suffering 63 killed in three hours of fighting, said the statement, which could not be independently confirmed.

Sihanouk's allies, the Khmer Rouge, issued a peace plan on June 28 but Phnom Penh's state radio on Wednesday rejected it as "ridiculous" and just an attempt to prolong the 11-year-old war.

"Despite some embellishments and reword-

ing here and there, the latest proposal of this gang of henchmen only reiterates" proposals that Phnom Penh already has rejected, said a text of the broadcast seen yesterday.

The broadcast rejected the Khmer Rouge proposals for a United Nations peacekeeping force in Cambodia and formation of a quadripartite government comprising the Phnom Penh authorities and the guerrilla coalition. Phnom Penh must remain in power to organise elections, it said.

The Cambodian government has offered a \$1,000 reward to any government troops who capture a foreign journalist travelling with anti-government guerrillas, a resistance group said Thursday.

The reward offer could not be immediately confirmed with the Cambodian government.

North to open border

Seoul denounces move as propaganda

SEOUL, July 6, (AP): North Korea announced today that it will open a tiny portion of its border with South Korea next month to encourage unification, a South Korean news agency said.

It is the first time either of the rival Korean states has opened any portion of its border since the three-year Korean war ended in 1953. The two Koreas remain technically at war because no peace treaty was signed after that conflict.

Naewoo Press, a semi-official news agency specialising in communist affairs, said North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification

between the Korean peninsula since the division of the peninsula in 1945. A South Korean statement issued after today's talks said "the historic top-level talks, headed by the prime ministers, appear certain to be held."

The opening would affect only 800 metres (yards) of the entire border, which stretches 248 kms (155 miles) roughly along the 38th parallel.

"For a successful progress of contact and visit between the North and the South, we will open the portion of our wide at Panmunjom from Aug. 15, and hope that the South side, too, will take a corresponding measure," the North Korean announcement said.

In Seoul, South Korean officials denounced the communist move as propaganda.

The Defence Ministry said it had not been officially notified of any report from North Korea and would not comment. South Korean law forbids a citizen from travelling to the North without government permission. South Korean officials claimed it has aimed at encouraging South Korean radical "groups to hold a unification rally at the border village on the country's national liberation day."

"The North Korean move is insignificant because it affects only its sector of Panmunjom, which is very small," said a senior Seoul government official.

Panmunjom is an oval-shaped joint security area straddling a portion of the 248-km (155-mile) border between the two Koreas. It is where military officials of both sides irregularly meet to discuss alleged armistice violations.

It was not immediately clear whether both North and South Koreans, or foreigners, would be permitted to freely cross the border. In addition, South Korea also controls any passage through the heavily guarded border.

President Roh Tae-woo refused yesterday to accept the resignation of Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon, who was angry at being forced to make a public apology for perceived campaign misdeeds.

of the Fatherland made the announcement in a broadcast monitored in Seoul.

The North Korean announcement said the communist sector of the truce village of Panmunjom inside the demilitarised zone (DMZ) will be opened Aug. 15 to allow free travel between the two Koreas. It said the move is intended to coincide the anniversary of the day Korea was liberated from colonial Japanese rule in 1945.

The announcement came as working-level talks were held today to arrange for historic talks between prime ministers of the two nations, possibly in Seoul in August. The talks would be the highest level contact

Refugee repatriation by '92

UN bids new plan



A Vietnamese boy waits among the luggage at the Hong Kong's Kai Tak International Airport as he leaves for a regional transit centre in the Philippines. The first batch of 32 Vietnamese refugees left for Philippines on July 5 but still 55,000 boat people remain in camps and detention centres in Hong Kong. (Reuters wirephoto)

WASHINGTON, July 6, (Reuters): The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has proposed solving an impasse over Vietnamese boat people by repatriating or resettling them from Hong Kong and Southeast Asian nations by the end of 1992, a US official said yesterday.

The United States did not reject the proposal, but so far US President George Bush has resisted changing his tough opposition to any forced repatriation of boat people, the official said.

The official told Reuters an increasing number of US officials have concluded that if Washington does not relax its strict opposition to this policy, countries providing haven to refugees will close their doors.

"If we maintain our opposition... first asylum is going to collapse," he said referring to the policy of Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines of letting boat people land on their territory.

The official, who asked not to be identified, also said there is a real possibility an important meeting on this issue in Geneva on July 16 and 17 will end in failure.

The UN High Commissioner, Thorvald Stoltenberg, postponed the meeting originally set for June because of an impasse over the forced repatriation of boat people classified as illegal immigrants.

He is seeking to resolve this issue, which has raised tensions between the United States and Britain and among Hong Kong and Southeast Asian nations that give "first asylum" to Vietnamese refugees.

In May, these nations, overwhelmed by the influx, issued an ultimatum, saying "first asylum" would end unless Hanoi and Washington either accepted that boat people screened out as illegal immigrants would be deported to Vietnam or agreed to the establishment of a UN-administered centre for them.

The first group of Hong Kong's Vietnamese refugees to await Western resettlement in a Philippine holding centre left the British colony Thursday for Manila. (UPI)

Extremist leader shot dead in Indonesia

JAKARTA, July 6, (UPI): Government agents in Indonesia's strongly Islamic western province of Aceh shot and killed a man believed to be the leader of the extremist movement that allegedly killed up to 20 people in the past three weeks, officials said.

The suspect, identified as Yusuf Ab, was believed to be the leader of a movement known as GPK, spokesman for the Bukit Barisan military command, Lt Col Achmad Sudjai, told reporters.

Yusuf was shot to death Sunday morning by military authorities in Aceh Utara district, Sudjai said. Yusuf apparently was killed when he resisted arrest by military officers in a raid against extremist violence in the province. The military officers also seized a gun belonging to Yusuf, authorities said.

On June 30, government officers shot and killed Yusuf's companion, identified as T. Iskandar, while another man escaped with a bullet wound in his foot. Two days earlier, the alleged extremist killed seven people including 8-month-old baby in a minibus, officials said.

Wael Al-Nisf & Partners Trading Company announces that the underlisted workers have left work without previous notice and warns against employing or harbouring them as they are still under the company's sponsorship.

 Mohammad Lutf Al-Hakkar Kaboor Mohammad Ali Bangladeshi	 Mahboul Al-Haq Shams Al-Haq Bangladeshi	 Noor Al-Deen Abdu Egyptian	 Botanal Pamiel Winjicon Thai	 Mohammad Minito Apro Miya Bangladeshi	 Abdul Qader Kari Abdul Rab Bangladeshi	 Wiyon Kamoon Thai	 Abdul Fattah Mahmoud Ali Egyptian
 Mohammad Abdul Raheem Mohammad Bangladeshi	 Upali Roba Singhi Sri Lankan	 Gypto Litoy Dilus Filipino	 Mohammad Mokdas Ali Bangladeshi	 Aziz Rahman Abdul Manaf Bangladeshi	Anyone who knows their whereabouts may contact the company on 4837416/ 4845772/4835050 or contact the nearest police station.		



Singing together

Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti chats with Spanish tenors Jose Carreras (left) and Placido Domingo (centre) during a rehearsal for World Cup

charity performance. They will be singing together for the first time. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mind your own affairs

China warns seven industrialised powers

BEIJING, July 7. (AP): Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zeming warned the seven industrialised powers against interfering in China's internal affairs during their summit next week.

He said the group of seven should "confine themselves to discussion of economic and other issues among themselves," according to a paraphrase by the official Xinhua news agency.

The wire service dispatch of Jiang's interview yesterday with Noboru Watanabe, president of the Japanese Mainichi newspaper group, was released early today.

"Some Western countries are very unwise to have imposed economic sanctions on China, as this will bring about no positive result but will, instead, arouse the Chinese people's resentment," Jiang said.

Many ordinary Chinese initially welcomed the sanctions, saying the government should be punished in some way for killing hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people to crush the democracy movement. However, there have been more calls recently for lifting of the sanctions, which some say are beginning to hurt the Chinese people directly.

Japan, the only Asian member of the group of seven, already has eased its ban on loans to China, granting two loans earlier this week for \$16 million to be used to improve drinking water.

However, talks on a five-year, \$5.2 billion loan package, broken off last year, have not resumed.

Japan's action reflects a general softening toward China following the lifting of martial law in Beijing in January, the release of nearly 900 people arrested for joining the democracy movement and the release of astrophysicist and dissident Fang Lizhi last month from hiding in the US embassy in Beijing.

"If (the Western nations) interfere in the affairs of other countries, I am afraid that would not be proper," Jiang said.

His remarks contrasted with a Foreign Ministry statement last week urging the group of seven to "take timely, positive steps by seizing the opportunity to improve relations with China."

Jiang also said former party chief Zhao, who has not been seen in public for more than 13 months, remains a party member and "no change has been made in his treatment in terms of material well-being."

China has not strayed from the path of reform and is trying to expand co-operation with foreign countries, Premier Li Peng said yesterday.

He told former French Prime Minister Raymond Barre, who is visiting China, that Beijing welcomed co-operation with foreign states.

"Our reform is constantly deepening with its content enriched all the time," Li was quoted as saying by the official New China News Agency.

"China is willing to develop co-operation in diversified forms with all countries, including France."

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HK, Hanoi agree on refugees to be repatriated

HONG KONG, July 7. (Reuters): Hong Kong said today it had agreed with Hanoi on a list of "several hundred" Vietnamese boat people who had not volunteered for repatriation but were to be sent home from camps in the British colony.

"We have submitted a list of several hundred screened-out people for repatriation. I can't remember how many," Alistair Asprey, Hong Kong secretary for security, said.

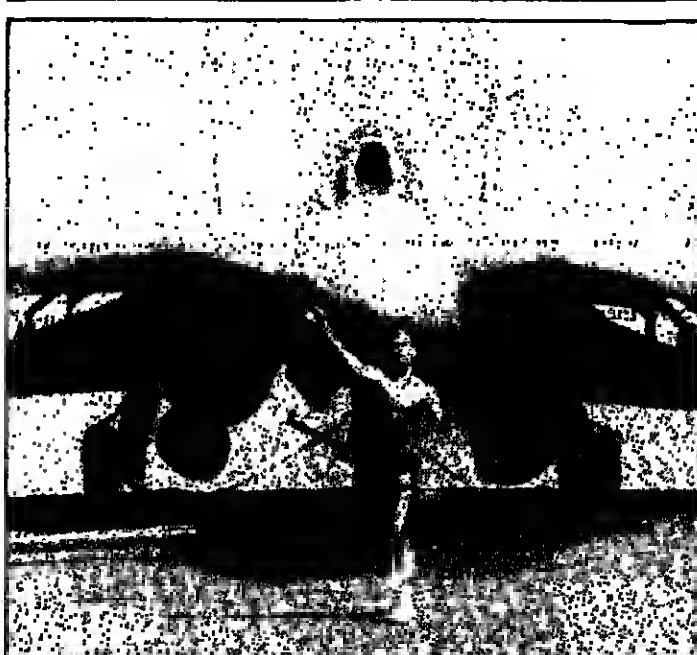
"The Vietnamese (officials) have indicated they will accept their repatriation," he said in a radio interview.

Since June 1988, Hong Kong has screened all arriving boat people, dividing genuine political refugees, eligible

for resettlement overseas, from those termed economic migrants, who the government says must return to Vietnam.

Aid workers and diplomats said the new agreement was an attempt by Hong Kong to circumvent strong opposition from Washington and Hanoi to the concept of forced repatriation. It provided a less controversial form of deportation for those boat people who, although they did not want to return, would not resist repatriation.

"There are now very strong signs of some kind of breakthrough," said one Western diplomat in Hong Kong who follows the boat people issue.



Playful officer

An officer on the flight deck of the US aircraft carrier Carl Vinson plays pool with a shipmate in front of a F-14 Tomcat jet fighter on Friday. The aircraft carrier is part of a group of US Pacific Fleet warships currently visiting Hong Kong. (Reuters wirephoto)

Singapore base access for US

Talks next week on accord

WASHINGTON, July 7. (AP): The United States will hold a new round of talks next week on a proposed defence agreement with Singapore that would allow US access to military facilities there, the Defence Department said yesterday.

The accord, which has been in the works since early this year, would not give the United States its own military base in Singapore, said Lt. Cmdr. Edward H. Lundquist, a department spokesman.

He said no US planes or ships would be based there permanently. If the deal is concluded, the US F-16 fighter planes would be allowed to conduct occasional training missions in Singapore, navy ships could use Singapore's strategically located port, and a small contingent of US military personnel — probably fewer than 200 — would be based there to help maintain the facilities, Lundquist said.

The Los Angeles Times reported yesterday that it was possible that a final agreement would be signed when Secretary of State James Baker visits Singapore in August.

Lundquist said he could not say how close the two sides are to final agreement, but that the remaining issues are mainly legal technicalities. He said a new round of talks was scheduled for next Wednesday through Friday in Washington.

Lundquist stressed that the proposed use of Singapore military facilities would not be a substitute for the larger US forces at Clark air base and Subic Bay naval base in the Philippines.

Lundquist said the main outstanding issue was the legal status of US military personnel who would be stationed in Singapore under the agreement. One open question, he said, was what rights the Americans would have in the event they are arrested on criminal charges.

Also during the two-hour interview, Jiang revealed that the party has still been unable to resolve the case of former party chief Zhao Ziyang. Zhao was stripped of all his posts late June 1989 for supporting a student-led democracy movement but has not been brought to trial.

During their three-day summit in Houston, Texas, beginning Monday, the seven industrialised nations are expected to discuss lifting economic sanctions they imposed individually against China after its brutal suppression of last year's pro-democracy movement.

The summit participants include the United States, Canada, Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Japan.

Bush accused of rights double standards

NEW YORK, July 7. (Reuters): Dissident Chinese scientist Fang Lizhi called on President George Bush yesterday to push China to become more democratic without isolating it and accused him of using double standards on human rights, two American television stations reported.

Fang's younger son had just arrived to join the family in England and the scientist apparently free to speak out, CBS said during a televised interview from London.

The astrophysicist and his physicist wife took refuge in the US embassy in Beijing after the Chinese army crushed student-led pro-democracy protests in June last year. They were expected to stay in Britain, where they arrived in June, until they leave for the United States in the coming months.

"First, I say thanks for his (Bush's) hospitality last year. But I also want to say he should be concerned with the human rights situation in China... special sanctions to push China to go to more freedom, more democracy," Fang told the CBS interviewer.

Interpreter

Through an interpreter, he added in an NBC interview: "Principally, of course, I think that it's right that we not isolate China altogether. China is on its way towards the world at the moment. We shall therefore push them forward towards being in the world."

Asked if Bush was using the same human rights standards for the Soviet Union as for China, he told CBS, "sometimes we call as such the double standard, but this is a very common problem."

He urged the United States to remember the thousands who were jailed after the killings of pro-democracy students in Tiananmen Square and he predicted that China would be changed in fewer than 10 years.

TV shows secret film of Carlos

Hungary's communist authorities gave refuge to PFLP leader

BUDAPEST, July 7. (Reuters): Secret film of talks between Hungarian officials and the international terrorist Carlos about 10 years ago was shown on Hungarian television today.

The broadcast on state television's Panorama News programme came 10 days after Interior Minister Balazs Horvath told Parliament that Hungary's communist authorities gave refuge to Carlos in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The grainy grey film appeared to show two counter-espionage officials telling Carlos and a deputy called Steve that his guerrilla group could no longer base its operations in Hungary but transit visits and short stays would still be allowed.

Carlos, dressed in a suit, demanded information from the Hungarians about East European secret service reports on terrorist activity in West Germany.

Panorama also showed interviews with Hungarian secret service officials who met Carlos or

who knew about his presence in Hungary. It said it was working in Budapest and Moscow on a full-length programme on the Carlos affair.

Carlos, born Ilych Ramirez Sanchez in Venezuela in 1949, joined the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the late 1960s and was blamed for a string of guerrilla operations ranging from West Europe to Japan.

The most dramatic was the kidnapping in 1975 of 11 oil ministers attending a meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in Vienna.

In 1986, Israel's Davar newspaper said he was believed to be dead and buried in Libya, probably killed by Libyan agents because he knew too much about Arab intelligence networks.

Andras Petreszevics, formerly responsible for anti-terrorist activity in Hungary, told Panorama that Carlos lived like a "man of the world" in Budapest, enjoying luxury hotels or

apartments, women and the best Western whiskies.

But he said Carlos was in a bad nervous condition when they met. "His hands trembled and there were visible signs of fear," he said.

Miklos Redei, former head of Hungary's counter-espionage service, said Carlos and his group were never invited to Hungary but the authorities did not dare to arrest or "liquidate" him.

"We knew that if something happened to Carlos here that the whole terrorist group would have declared revenge on Hungary," Redei said.

"We know this would have been the result. All our embassies abroad would have been exposed to their revenge."

Hungarian newspapers published on June 28 the text of a letter dated April 2, 1980, from Carlos to Janos Kadar, Hungary's communist leader from 1956 to 1988.

Soviet optimism

German unification resolution by year-end

EAST BERLIN, July 7. (AP): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze believes the external aspects of German unification, including its military alignment, will be settled by the end of this year, a West German newspaper reported today.

Shevardnadze's comments marked the first time the Soviet Union gave an approximate timetable for resolution of the so-called two-plus-four talks on German unification.

"We are in favour of the fastest possible pace of work, for continual

meetings of experts" at the two-plus-four talks, Shevardnadze said. "If all parties involved make a concerted effort all remaining questions can be solved before... late 1990," the Soviet official said.

Shevardnadze spoke in an interview to be published tomorrow by the Bild Am Sonntag newspaper.

The most divisive issue at the two-plus-four talks, which include the two Germanys, the Soviet Union, Britain and France, is the question of Nato membership for a united Germany.

The Soviet Union insists that Germany should be neutral, but the three Western allies argue Nato membership is the best guarantee for the future good behaviour of what would be Central Europe's mightiest military power.

Formal German unification is expected by December, pending agreement in the two-plus-four talks.

Specifically, Shevardnadze said he expected agreement to the two-plus-four forum before a summit late this year of the 35 nations of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

No date has so far been set for such a summit, which would discuss the political, military and human rights landscape of post-Iron-Curtain Europe.

Shevardnadze said he hoped for extensive economic assistance from the West as the Soviet Union makes its painful transition to a market economy. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is a strong proponent of such an aid programme, hoping it will ultimately help secure Soviet approval for Germany's Nato membership.

"We have the fullest confidence in the German people," Shevardnadze said.

On Friday, politicians who mapped out the economic unification of the two German states agreed to a timetable for finishing talks on a political merger.

The two nations are negotiating a treaty that will reconcile the different laws of the countries and build a political framework for a united Germany.

Guenther Krause, East Germany's top negotiator and the Parliament state secretary, said negotiators agreed to hold a series of talks that will result in a final treaty by the end of August. Krause said the party should mandate that Berlin is the capital of a united Germany. Bonn is now the West German capital and East Berlin is the East German capital.

However, West German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble told reporters that the decision should be made by a newly elected parliament of both nations.

Krause also said that the exact date of German elections would be decided by the end of this month.

The political treaty would have to be ratified by both Parliaments. East Germany would then hold elections in October to create five state governments, to match the West German state government system.

Common German elections would be held in December and the two countries would formally merge a day later.



Revenge bombing

A bomb believed planted by Basque separatists seriously injured a policeman on Saturday in what police said was revenge for recent police successes against the terrorists.

The bomb ripped through the policeman's car as he drove to work in this northern Basque city, a police spokesman said. He described the attack as reprisal by the Basque terror group ETA for the death of a three-person commando team on June 25.

Doctors at a local hospital had to amputate the policeman's legs, a hospital spokesman said. ETA, which stands for homeland and liberty, seeks independence from Spain for the three-province northern Basque region. So far this year, ETA has claimed responsibility for killing more than 500 people, mainly police, military and civil guard officers.

On June 25, civil guards in the neighbouring Navarre region surrounded a three-person ETA commando unit in a rural area after a shootout in which one civil guard died.

The men and one woman who formed the commando unit chose to commit suicide rather than surrender, according to the confession of one commando, who survived a self-inflicted wound.

The survivor admitted for the second time on Thursday, in a confession to a judge, that he shot the woman as part of the pact. He said the other ETA member had shot himself to death.

The survivor was found with a self-inflicted wound to the head. He remained in serious condition but able to communicate with authorities.

Pelura shows police standing guard outside the Amsterdam office of the Spanish Banco Bilbao Vizcaya after the blast. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sofia intellectuals protest continues

SOFIA, July 7. (Reuters): Hundreds of Bulgarian intellectuals whose protests helped push President Petar Mladenov from office, said today they would not end their protests until other demands were met.

The protesters, who have staged a sitdown strike on the pavement outside the president's office for the past three days, said they had issued demands including an open trial for disgraced former leader Todor Zhivkov and full details of the wealth of the ruling Socialists, formerly the Communist Party.

Mladenov, 53, who ousted Zhivkov on November 10, resigned last evening amid mounting demands that he quit, sparked by an amateur video showing him ordering tanks to move against anti-government protesters last December.

He said he was quitting "in order not to be a reason to increase political tension." News of the resignation was met with wild delight by the pavement protesters.

Despite heavy winds and rain, some 200 demonstrators spent Friday night on the same stretch of pavement, which they marked "communist-free zone." The protesters, including teachers and university lecturers, said they did not support any political party and expected their numbers to swell later.

"We want democracy and a fair trial of the people who caused the present tragic situation in Bulgaria," one protester said. Some demonstrators have erected tents near the offices in a central Sofia square. Other protesters said they would settle for written assurances that their demand would be considered — provided these were given before the country's newly-elected national assembly holds its first meeting next Tuesday.

Student leader threatens to go on hunger strike

BUCHAREST, July 7. (Reuters): The mother of an arrested Romanian student leader said today that he was threatening to go on hunger strike unless his conditions in jail improved.

Maria Munteanu, the first person to visit her son Marian in Jilava prison hospital near Bucharest, said he complained of headaches and amnesia.

She said he asked prison authorities a week ago for medical attention but had not yet received an answer. He also demanded to see his lawyer.

"He was very angry. If he is kept in these conditions he will refuse food in a couple of days," she told Reuters by telephone.

The National Salvation Front government blamed Munteanu, leader of Bucharest University Students' League, for opposition riots last month.

Munteanu, an advocate of non-violence, has repeatedly denied that he instigated the anti-government demonstrations.

Junta resists transfer

Burma prevents pro-democracy meetings

BANGKOK, July 7. (AP): Burma's military rulers have broken up pro-democracy meetings as they continue to resist the transfer to civilian rule following a decisive electoral defeat, diplomats said yesterday.

Authorities detained 33 students overnight this week to prevent them from meeting in the northern town of Mandalay, one Western diplomat said. He said soldiers surrounded the monastery where the students had planned to meet.

The students belonged to the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, which has strongly criticised the government, he said.

The diplomat said that a week earlier, troops halted a prayer service in Mandalay organised by 500 supporters of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi

to celebrate her birthday. The hall in which the service was to be held remains closed, he said.

He and another diplomat, reached in Rangoon by telephone from Bangkok, spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) won 396 of the 485 parliamentary seats in the May 27 parliamentary election, the first multi-party polls in three decades in Burma. She has been sequestered under house arrest for one year.

The vote was seen as a clear rejection of the military junta that seized power and suppressed pro-democracy demonstrations in September 1988.

The diplomats said the government has done little to prepare for its promised transfer of power to the newly elected government.



A Burmese student climbs up the wall of Burmese embassy to put up a poster demanding Rangoon government release all political detainees during the protest yesterday. The protesters also urged foreign countries to stop investing in Burma until the military government hands over power. (Reuters wirephoto)

General blasts top Kremlin leadership

Gorbachev indecisive, Shevardnadze too hasty

MOSCOW, July 6, (Reuters): A Soviet general who has blasted Kremlin disarmament and East European policy today criticised President Mikhail Gorbachev as indecisive and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze as too hasty.

Major-General Ivan Mikulin, a delegate to the 28th Communist Party congress, said his comments yesterday had focused on the hurried way the Soviet Union was pulling its forces out of the territory of its Warsaw Pact allies.

"I was not talking about dissatisfaction in the army with our foreign

policy in general," Mikulin, chief of the political department of the southern army group, told reporters as the congress went into its fifth day today.

"I spoke only of the hasty steps our Foreign Ministry took in connection with pulling the troops out of Eastern Europe," he said.

Moscow has agreed with the new non-communist governments in Hungary and Czechoslovakia to withdraw some 125,000 troops from there by the middle of next year.

"I would vote against Shevardnadze as a member of the Politburo

because we are in too much of a hurry in our foreign policy," Mikulin said.

The foreign minister, in a speech to the congress on Tuesday, expressed virtual indifference about whether he continued to sit on the party's ruling Politburo.

Asked his opinion on Gorbachev, who is party leader as well as state president, Mikulin said: "I like him personally, but in my opinion we need more decisiveness in our general secretary."

In remarks to the congress's foreign policy working group yesterday, Mikulin accused Soviet diplomats of "looking at the world through rose-coloured glasses" and said the West was "building up its own security exclusively at our expense."

His comments echoed criticisms at a Russian Federation Communist Party conference last month by officers who said Moscow was retreating from Eastern Europe without a fight. The charges have caused alarm among liberal Soviet politicians.

After a day of debates in seven working groups—virtually all of which heard sharp clashes between conservatives and radicals over party policies—the congress resumed in full session today.

In a conciliatory move, Moldavian party leader Pyotr Luchinsky proposed a nationwide meeting of all the country's parties and movements to produce what he called a joint declaration on civil consensus.

This would enable the country to get down to tackling its problems, "putting aside offences, ambitions and prejudices," he said.

Luchinsky said that if the Soviet Union was to be turned into a confederation of sovereign states—an idea floated in working group debate yesterday—then the 15 republics' communist parties should also have greater sovereignty.

In an interview today with the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya, Viktor Alksnis, a Latvian communist official favouring close ties with Moscow, described the confederation plan as "a stab in the back."

Soviet miners have cast a shadow over the congress, moving ahead with plans for a protest strike next Wednesday to demand the government's resignation and an end to party domination of daily life.

A radical programme by coal miners demands the nationalisation of party property and the abolition of party cells in the armed forces, the KGB, Interior Ministry and the workplace.

The Communist Party chief of Azerbaijan, where Soviet troops crushed a nationalist uprising in January, charged that perestroika had caused bloodshed and drew a comparison with the Stalin era.



Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov puts his hand to his forehead during the Soviet Communist Party Congress. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kalugin termed a hero

MOSCOW, July 6, (Reuters): Soviet liberals have rallied to the defence of a former KGB major-general, whose campaign to bring perestroika to the security agency cost him his rank but made him a hero of the left.

The Moscow City Council, a hotbed of radicalism, passed a resolution on Wednesday demanding the resignation of the KGB chief, accusing him of persecuting Major-General Oleg Kalugin.

"We state our resolute protest in connection with the actions of the KGB and believe that KGB chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov should resign," the resolution said.

It also asked Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to consider the matter personally.

The latest edition of the liberal weekly Moscow News also defended Kalugin, who retired from the KGB in March and was stripped of his rank and state honours last weekend.

"In the long run, Kalugin has done more for the prestige of the KGB than official troubadours: he demonstrated that the committee has brave people, anxious for perestroika within the organisation," Moscow News said in a long, laudatory article.

It said his treatment at the hands of his former KGB (committee for state security) comrades was "in the best tradition of persecuting dissidents."

Kalugin last month told a Soviet newspaper that recent reforms in the KGB were also so much "camouflage" and the ensuing controversy has thrust him firmly into the growing feud between conservative and liberal Communist Party factions.

In an interview published on Tuesday, he told the youth daily Komosomolskaya Pravda that the KGB has been crippled by defections to the West and he defended himself against KGB allegations that he had been an incompetent officer.

Last month he told the same newspaper that a recent "charm offensive" by the KGB was all for show.

Galina wins back house

MOSCOW, July 6, (Reuters): Former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev's daughter Galina has won a court action for the return of a country house, a Mercedes-Benz car and other valuables, a Moscow newspaper reported on Friday.

The valuables—including a cash deposit of \$65,000 roubles (\$104,000 at the official rate), antique furniture and stuffed animals—were confiscated when her husband Yuri Churbanov was convicted of corruption in 1988.

The young communist league daily Komosomolskaya Pravda said she convinced an Moscow appeal court that they all belonged to her and not Churbanov, whom she married in 1971 and who then quickly rose to become a first deputy interior minister.

Churbanov is serving a 12-year jail sentence for taking bribes during the rule of his father-in-law who died in 1981 after ruling for 17 years and is now widely condemned for leading the country into economic and social decay.



Yeltsin speaks with a delegate of the Soviet Communist Party Congress. (Reuters wirephoto)

Party is on road to ruin

Warns Yeltsin

MOSCOW, July 6, (AP): Boris Yeltsin warned Soviet communists today that they are following their Eastern European comrades on the path to ruin and could even be brought to trial by a society demanding punishment for their misdeeds.

The silver-haired populist shook up the fifth day of the party's congress with a blistering attack on the traditionalists who dominate it.

If the party does not change, "inevitably, representatives of the apparatus will be dragged out of the bodies of legal power," he said. "Such a party will be unable to hold onto its vanguard role, or even its representatives in the legislature."

Citing a growing demand to nationalise party property, Yeltsin added: "It's possible to imagine that a struggle will begin to bring to trial leaders of the party at all levels for damages they personally brought to the people and the country."

"If you think there is a different possibility, look at the fate of the communist parties of Eastern Europe," he said. "They separated themselves from the people, didn't understand their role, and were left on the side of the road."

The only way out, he said, is for the Communist Party to fully accept all the trappings of the multi-party system that party leaders endorsed earlier this year.

Underlining the congress' traditionalist mood, Yeltsin's attack was met with only a smattering of applause from the more than 4,600 delegates in the Kremlin's Palace of Congress.

Yeltsin parlayed his popularity among Soviet citizens into election in late May as president of Russia, the largest of the Soviet republics.

Since quarrelling with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in late 1987, he has been a constant critic of the Soviet leader, demanding more and quicker reforms.

Yeltsin proposed the new name of the Party of Democratic Socialism. He said the five-day-old congress should elect a new leadership which would call a further congress in six months or a year.

He appeared to suggest that ultimately a "union of democratic forces" should be created, combining a rejuvenated party with other groupings.

He proposed that party cells be withdrawn from the army, the KGB security police and state organisations. Workers in factories should decide the fate of the cells there.

Yeltsin said that if radicals broke away from the party, as some have threatened to do, a popular struggle would start to nationalise the party's property and bring it to trial for damage inflicted on the country.

He said the main issue at the congress was not the fate of perestroika.

1,500 Albanians seek refuge

Conditions inside embassies getting worse

VIENNA, Austria, July 6, (AP): Diplomats in the Albanian capital today said conditions were worsening inside embassies packed with hundreds of Albanians seeking refuge from the last hardline communist government in Europe.

More than 1,500 Albanians packed the embassies in Tirana, requesting foreign help out of their country, even though the government of communist leader Ramiz Alia pledged to issue them travel papers, foreign officials said.

The policy-setting central committee of Albania's Communist Party met today in emergency session for the second day in a bid to resolve the crisis facing Europe's poorest and most isolated country.

Attempts by foreign governments to send supplies and personnel to ease conditions in the embassies have been rebuffed by authorities in Albania, and some diplomats spoke today of near intolerable conditions as a result.

Nonetheless, Albania assured the United Nations it will seek a "positive" resolution to the crisis, the Italian Foreign Ministry reported Friday from Rome.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar told Italian officials that he had received the promise from the Albanian Foreign Ministry, according to an Italian government statement.

The Albanian ministry "provided assurances, albeit of a general nature, regarding a positive evolution of the question of the refugees," said the statement.

The rush in recent days to the embassies in Tirana follows last year's exodus of East Germans to embassies in other East European countries shortly before the fall of their hardline



A street scene in a downtown Tirana Square in Albania. (Reuters wirephoto)

communist government.

The crisis underscored deep discontent over the government's refusal to embark on sweeping political and economic reform and appeared to be the great challenge ever to 45 years of hardline communist rule.

A spokesman for the West German Foreign Ministry, Hans Schumacher, told reporters in Bonn that more than 1,000 Albanians had crowded into his country's embassy by mid-day today.

The French embassy was harbouring 230 refugees, the Paris Foreign Ministry said, and some 300 others were crowded into the Italian embassy, said a diplomat reached by telephone from Rome.

Diplomats said there were

about 50 each in the Polish and Czechoslovak embassies and 36 in the Hungarian mission.

An Italian embassy employee in Tirana described that compound as overcrowded. "The situation is more tragic than comic," said the official, reached by telephone from Rome. "This is an embassy designed for 10 people."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity and declined to elaborate.

The Austria press agency reported from Tirana that the embassies were growing short of food and medicines. The West German spokesman said the water supply, cut off for seven hours a day, posed the largest problems.

The Hungarian diplomat, des-

cribing the situation in the neighbouring French mission, said it was "jammed," with many sleeping in the embassy garden.

Scores more were reported in a dozen other foreign missions.

Foreign governments are urging that asylum seekers be allowed to emigrate quickly without fear of retribution if they leave the foreign embassies.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis had urged Perez de Cuellar to examine the issue.

The Albanian Foreign Ministry promised yesterday to grant passports to those who have sought refuge in foreign embassies in an attempt to flee their homeland, which is on the Adriatic bordering Greece and Yugoslavia.

Final unification talks begin

Metalworkers stage 'warning strike' for higher wages

EAST BERLIN, July 6, (AP): Officials from both German states began talks today on the final phase of unification.

Meanwhile East German farmers vowed to dump milk on the streets to protest lost business, and about 100,000 East German metalworkers held one-hour "warning strikes" to demand higher wages and job protection.

The East German metalworkers are represented by the East German affiliate of the West German union, IG Metall, said union spokesman Detlef Kuchenbecker.

Metalworkers have been holding strikes daily at various plants to press their demands.

East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere led his delegation into the negotiations with West German officials on a state treaty that would deal with the final aspects of creating a single Germany.

In an interview with the East German news agency, ADN, De Maiziere said the pact should give East Germans the same rights as West Germans.

He said the treaty should also call for Berlin to be the capital of a united Germany.

West German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble was leading the West German delegation in the talks.

Meanwhile, a bomb threat forced the evacuation of East Germany's Parliament building while lawmakers were in session.

No bomb was found and lawmakers and other occupants of the Parliament building returned after about 30 minutes.

Lawmakers were discussing the details of holding state elections in East Germany, which will reduce the nation to five states that would be joined with West Germany after common elections are held in December.

East Germany has experienced an increase in crime and threats against public officials in the freer atmosphere of the nation since the communist government was overthrown last autumn.

Farmers in the southern industrial city of Leipzig said today that they would dump 10,000 litres (2,640 gallons) of milk on the streets on Monday to protest the loss of business, ADN said.

De Maiziere and other officials have sharply criticised the higher prices that greeted East Germans during their first week in a free market economy.

The East German news agency ADN reported price rises of 400 per cent to 600 per cent in the northern Mecklenburg and Pomerania regions and said there were long shopping lines in the southeastern city of Dresden.

"There are cities in the GDR (East Germany) where the average price levels are way above those in West Germany," said East German Economics Minister Gerhard Pohl.



No checking

A boy sitting in a crack laughs after he climbed the Wall in East Berlin, near former Checkpoint Charlie. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviet military convoy rumbles through Estonia

Show of force causes postponement of veterans' reunion

MOSCOW, July 6, (AP): Soviet armour rumbled through an Estonian hamlet in a show of force yesterday, causing postponement of a veterans' reunion including soldiers who fought in Nazi brigades, the Estonian government said.

Organisers postponed the reunion scheduled for tomorrow and Sunday after a convoy of 28 Soviet armoured vehicles and 15 load troop trucks passed through Tori, said the Baltic republic's official Estonian news service.

"Today they arrived in Tori and drove through the town fully armed," the news agency said. "The Estonian government and the Ministry of Internal Affairs were not informed about the movement of the

troops."

The Estonian government strongly protests the actions taken by the army, which can do nothing but exacerbate the already tense situations, especially in situations such as this where the actions are connected to political ambitions," it added.

The news service said the soldiers had apparently left after passing through early Thursday.

The reunion planned by the Heritage Society, a group seeking to promote awareness of Estonian history, was indefinitely postponed, it added. Calls to the Heritage Society's chapter in Tori went unanswered.

The dispute highlighted the sensitivity of World War II allegiances among the Baltic republic's citizens, an issue underlying Estonia's independence drive.

Soviet soldiers entered independent Estonia in 1940 under a Adolf Hitler's pact with Josef Stalin dividing Eastern Europe into spheres of influence. Estonia and its Baltic neighbours were absorbed into the Soviet Union.

Heritage Society members issued an open invitation to soldiers who fought for Estonian independence, and included those who served in the German army in World War II. Estonian news reports and Heritage Society officials said.

The invitation also was extended to the handful of soldiers still alive who fought both Germans and Russians to establish Estonian independence in 1918, and partisans who fought a guerrilla war against Soviet power.

A leader of the Heritage Society, Argakas Kullo, said by telephone from the Estonian capital of Tallinn that about 65,000 to 70,000 Estonians served in German military units during World War II. He said most fled West with the German army when it retreated in 1944.

He said the society does not know how many former German army soldiers might still be in the republic, or how many would have attended the gathering.

Hijacked plane returns to Soviets from Sweden

STOCKHOLM, July 6, (Reuters): A Soviet airliner hijacked to Sweden by an apparently unarmed teenager on Thursday returned to the Soviet Union on Friday with its passengers and crew, officials at Stockholm's Arlanda Airport said.

Police said the hijacker, who had told the crew that he had a bomb in his briefcase, was being held in prison and was expected to be charged later on Friday. No bomb was found.

It was the eighth successful attempted hijacking of an Aeroflot airliner since June 9 when a 17-year-old youth forced a domestic Soviet flight to switch to Arlanda.

The latest hijacker, whose date of birth was given as 1971, told police he had received notice he would be

drafted into military service and was desperate to leave the Soviet Union.

But, unlike one of two earlier hijackers, he did not specifically say he commanded the plane, which was on a flight from Leningrad to Lvov with 171 passengers and seven crew, in order to dodge the draft.

Roger Ellsberg, chairman of the Swedish Pilots' Association, said the state of hijackings would continue unless Sweden sent back those responsible immediately.

Swedish pilots demanded tougher government action to end a wave of hijackings.

The pilots, backed by airport authorities and Aeroflot, urged the government to send the three young Soviet hijackers now held in Sweden straight back home for trial.

World News Roundup

America

Carter receives medal: Former president Jimmy Carter received the city's Liberty Medal in a patriotic celebration Wednesday, reminding Americans that human rights are key elements in the fabric of the nation.

Carter was warmly welcomed by a Philadelphia crowd of 10,000 as he was awarded the bronze medal in front of Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was signed exactly 214 years ago. The award also comes with \$100,000 prize. (UPI)

New Yorkers fear walking alone:

Nearly one out of every two New Yorkers is afraid to walk alone on the city's streets after dark, a survey released Wednesday showed.

The poll, conducted in phone interviews with 752 local residents by Princeton Survey Research Associates in mid-June, found that 46 per cent of the respondents were afraid to walk by themselves through the city at night.

The survey, commissioned by television station WNYW-TV Fox News, also concluded New Yorkers are not sure the police can be of much help. (UPI)

"Dart man" hunt:

Summer in New York has the city's police searching some of Manhattan's busiest streets for a man who has caused pain in the back and backside for dozens of women — "the dart man."

The man, using a straw as a blow gun, shoots pins at nearby women.

He aims for the backside but sometimes hits their backs, police said, adding that so far 24 women have complained of being attacked since June 26. The latest attacks came on Tuesday when two women were hit. (Reuters)

Bakker loses bid:

Disgraced television evangelist Tammy Faye Bakker lost her bid on Thursday to establish her new church in a Florida warehouse.

The Orange County zoning board rejected unanimously Bakker's bid to locate her new church in the warehouse — the successor to the scandal-plagued PTL (Praise the Lord/People that Lovet Club) — in the building, a board spokesman said. (Reuters)

Hospital mix-up:

A woman was told her newborn son had died in a hospital and discovered three days later he was still alive, hospital officials said in a letter to New York's *Journal News*. The child's birth was reported in a local newspaper, a Westchester doctor called to tell her the baby was alive. (AP)

UFO symposium:

Hundreds of UFO enthusiasts — from scientists and ministers to self-proclaimed adepts — are gathering in Pensacola for a weekend symposium about flying saucers and extraterrestrials.

The 21st annual annual UFO Network Symposium features a host of speakers and a tour of a suburb where residents claim to have seen UFOs, paralytic beams and diminutive aliens over the past few years.

Kathryn Ware, publicity chairwoman, said Thursday 720 people from across the United States and abroad are expected to attend the symposium Saturday and Sunday. (UPI)

Escaped prisoner nabbed:

A prisoner escaped Thursday while being treated at a hospital and was recaptured on a subway train a short time later, in his hospital gown and an IV still attached to his arm, authorities said.

Elvin Sanchez, 29, bolted before dawn from Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, where he was being treated for a swollen knee while awaiting trial on a grand larceny charge, said Ruby Ryles, a correction department spokeswoman.

Sanchez came out of a bathroom, asked a guard about his medication, then dashed down four flights of stairs to the street, said Ryles. (AP)

Cabinet sold for \$15m:

An American collector paid \$15.5 million (\$15.1 million) Thursday for an 18th century Italian cabinet, the highest auction price ever paid for a piece of furniture or for artwork other than a painting, Christie's auctioneers said.

Basia Johnson, wife of the late Johnson and Johnson pharmaceuticals heir J. Seward Johnson, was in the front row at Christie's auction house and bid for the cabinet, an extraordinary Baroque work decorated in gilt, bronze, ebony and pietra dura — marble inlays of birds and flowers. (AP)

Seeks to re-enter US:

A NASA rocket scientist and alleged Nazi war criminal who wants to return to the United States joined a congressman at a news conference just a half-mile (1 kilometre) from the US border. Congressman James Trafletti Wednesday said Arthur Rudolph, who played a major role in designing and building the rocket that took Americans to the moon, passed a lie-detector test in which he denied any involvement in Nazi war crimes.

Trafletti said Rudolph, who voluntarily left the United States in 1964 in a deal with the US government, deserves a hearing on his request to return. (AP)

Memorial for Soviet pilot:

Soviet pilot Anatoly Grishchenko was eulogised Thursday as a hero who not only helped save his homeland from radiation poisoning but also whose courageous battle against leukaemia forged stronger ties between the people of the Soviet Union and the United States.

Grishchenko died Monday of pulmonary failure, losing his 2-week battle on a respirator against a lung infection that his radiation-weakened immune system was unable to fight. He was 33. (UPI)

Europe

Heart drug draws concern: New research has highlighted concerns over the use of the heart drug Corwin to treat patients with cardiac arrest, according to a report published in London Friday.

The drug improves symptoms of breathlessness and tiredness and prolongs the ability to exercise in patients with mild to moderate heart failure, the report, published in the UK medical journal *The Lancet*, said.

But Corwin is occasionally also prescribed to patients with severe cardiac arrest, with potentially dangerous results, the report warned. (Kuna)

No sign of restorers:

The Leaning Tower of Pisa was closed six months ago for repairs — but nobody has yet turned up to fix it. Officially labelled a danger to the public, the 800-year-old white marble belltower was shut in January for urgent restoration work to arrest its ever-increasing tilt. (Reuters)



'Shadow senator'

Jesse Jackson announced Thursday that he will run for one of Washington's two "shadow senators" posts to lobby Congress to grant the city statehood.

Jackson, who has twice run for president of the United States, is one of the country's top black leaders. The population of Washington, also known as the District of Columbia, is about 80 per cent black.

"Statehood for the District of Columbia is the most important civil rights issue in America today," Jackson said. "More people live here than five states, we pay more taxes than 49 states, and yet no vote on Capitol Hill."

The shadow senators will be unpaid lobbyists for Washington's statehood, with no official duties. The city has one delegate to Congress who may vote in committees but not on the floor of the House. (Reuters wirephoto)

74.6 miles per hour

Hydrogen-fueled car successful

TOKYO, July 6, (UPI) — A car using liquid hydrogen as fuel has made a successful test run, making the maximum speed of 74.6 miles per hour (120 kph), but it still is a long way to start commercial production, researchers said today.

Researchers at Tokyo's Musashi Institute of Technology said the test proved that commercial production is feasible technically but economic problems, such as high costs for production of a system to keep liquid hydrogen at an extremely low temperature have yet to be cleared.

The vehicle is at the world's highest level in performance, said Shiochi Furukawa, president of the institute.

The diesel engine of a small truck has been remodelled so as to use liquid hydrogen fuel and mounted on Nissan's sports car model, Fairlady Z.

The liquid hydrogen inside the fuel tank must be kept at an ultra-low level of 253 degrees Celsius below zero, using a high pressure pump. The opening and closing of the injection valve and ignition device are controlled by computer, the team said.



\$4.6m aid to Peru

Japan will provide a grant of 700 million yen (\$4.6 million) to Peru to finance an irrigation project in the Latin American nation, Kyoto news service reported Thursday.

Kyoto, quoting an unidentified government source, said the decision has already been informed to Peruvian president-elect Alberto Fujimori, shown above with raised arms, who made a triumphal visit to Japan this week.

The report came a few hours after Fujimori left Japan after a live-day tour of Japan, which included an audience with Emperor Akihito at the moat-surrounded Imperial Palace. (Reuters wirephoto)



MIG-29s in US

Ground personnel service a Soviet MIG-29 at Kalamazoo Airport on July 4. Kalamazoo Air Show today and tomorrow. This will be the first flight demonstration in the US by the MIG-29s. (Reuters wirephoto)

Abba lawsuit: Two members of the disbanded Swedish pop group Abba are suing their former record company for alleged underpayment of royalties.

Agnetha Faltskog and Benny Andersson, two of the group's four musicians, say Polar Music International has not carried out an agreement to increase their royalties to nine per cent from three since January 1983. (Reuters)

Controllers end strike: French air traffic controllers ended a three-day strike on Thursday but unionists said there could be further travel disruption in Paris during the holiday season.

"If things are not resolved quickly, there will be a renewed strike at the end of July," declared Daniel Reichess, secretary of the transport section of the communist-led CGT Labour Union. (Reuters)

Paris housing crisis: Paris officials ruled out on Thursday solving the capital's housing crisis by putting the homeless in empty flats, saying there were no vacant properties.

The Paris mayor's office made the statement at a news conference to answer public criticism of the city's lack of affordable housing, forcing thousands of people to sleep on pavements. (Reuters)

Porno photos, priest charged:

A 77-year-old priest has been charged with taking pornographic pictures of children in the town he had served since 1948, court and church officials said Wednesday in Paris.

The British-born priest, Nicolas Gienecros, was charged on Saturday by a Paris judge with inciting minors into lewd behaviour. He has been jailed pending further court proceedings. (AP)

Death to circumflex: France's language police pronounced the death sentence on the circumflex on Thursday.

Circumflex accents and bypins linking many compound words will not be used in schools after 1991, adding to last month's raid on accents and dashes. The reforms affect about 1,200 words.

The circumflex is the hat-shaped accent which shortens the pronunciation of vowels. (Reuters)

Lassalle named director: Veteran actor and stage director Jacques Lassalle was named Wednesday as head of the prestigious Comedie Francaise, succeeding Antoine Vitez, who died last April.

Lassalle, who turns 54 this week, has directed the national theatre of Strasbourg since 1983. Boro in Clermont-Ferrand, he studied modern literature and sociology in Paris before entering the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts where he worked with Beatrik Dussane and Fernand Ledoux. (AP)

Museum security tightened:

Curators closed five smaller Parisian museums to individual visitors Thursday after a daring art thief cut a masterpiece by French impressionist painter Auguste Renoir out of its frame at the Louvre museum as tourists milled around during visiting hours.

James Salmons, director of the museums of France, said curators' policy would become more open following criticism by police that officials at the museums had treated security as "a taboo subject" in the past and been slow to use new techniques to prevent thefts. (UPI)

Cover up EEC scandal: Seven former Greek ministers agreed to cover up a 1986 illegal sale of Yugoslav corn by Greece to the European Economic Community, one of them said on Wednesday.

"We decided unanimously to cover up the Yugoslav corn affair," former foreign minister Karolos Papoulias told a court specially appointed to try former socialist prime minister Andreas Papandreu and some of his top ministers. (Reuters)

Bust fetches record sum: A white marble bust of 18th century poet Alexander Pope fetched 935,000 pounds sterling (\$1.6 million) at a London auction on Thursday, a world record for an English bust, auctioneers Sotheby's said.

It is one of four portraits of Pope sculpted from life by the French-born Louis-Francois Roubilliac between 1738 and 1741, and depicts the poet at the age of 53 with thinning hair and giant features. (Reuters)

Suspect drops appeal: West German guerrilla suspect Susanne Albrecht has dropped an appeal against her arrest in East Germany last month, clearing the way for her extradition to the West, the state prosecutor's office said on Thursday.

Albrecht was one of eight suspected members of the Red Army Faction (RAF) tracked down in East Germany where for years they enjoyed the protection of the former communist leaders. (Reuters)

Swissair's youngest VIP: At two years of age, Jennifer Jahn is Swissair's youngest VIP, having travelled extensively on the Swiss Airline's routes.

In a release, Swissair said that since her birth, the young Jennifer had travelled more than 500,000 kilometres on air routes around the world. With her parents, Jennifer has gone around the world several times via Asia and the Pacific. The family frequently travels to Europe and sometimes to Africa and the United States. (Kuna)

Yuppies study: A Swedish anthropologist has received 380,000 Swedish kronor (\$45,000) from the Swedish state's research fund to study the lives of yuppie women in Madrid.

Swedish professor Britt-Marie Thuren from Stockholm University was granted the money from the research funds to enable her to live together with Spanish yuppie women and lead their luxurious lifestyle for a year. Yuppies refers to young, upwardly-mobile professionals devoted to building wealth. (UPI)



McCartney in the USA

Former Beatle Paul McCartney, performing in the US capital for the first time since the late 1960s, on Wednesday emphasised his new concern over environmental issues and said he was using his fame to help publicise problems in the ozone.

McCartney, 48, who is playing two shows in Washington as part of his "Get Back" world tour, said he first became concerned about the ozone last year "when scientists discovered the hole in the sky."

"I mean we've been hearing this for years and going 'yawn, someone will fix it,' but when they discovered a 50-foot (15 metre) hole in the ozone, I think a lot of people got frightened and I was one of them."

And McCartney said that if people perceive him as using his celebrity to help get the message out, they are absolutely correct. "I'm not really involved with specific issues, I'm just helping them get publicity. There are a lot of people out there who need someone like myself, unfortunately, to be their spokesman."

"They sit around watching TV going 'yawn, yawn, we want it safe, we want it safe,' unfortunately, governments don't seem to listen to them. It's fallen to the entertainers like myself to speak up, so that's really all I'm doing."

"But obviously when you see things like the Exxon oil spill and then you see them arguing and suing Alaska about who's going to clean it up, I mean I think that's disgraceful," he said.

McCartney's tour, which began in late April and ends later this month, features a little bit of the old mixed in with the new, incorporating material from various solo albums and as a member of the Beatles and Wings.

Above: McCartney with wife Linda (at his right) and band members greet the press. (Reuters wirephoto).

Sumo giant laid up: U'cating perhaps unwisely but too well-prodigious a man to goit, then giant Sumo wrestler Konishiki has only himself to blame for being laid up just two days before the start of a major tournament.

Hawaiian-born Konishiki clearly takes all of his share and more — at 1.87 metres (6 feet 3 inches) in height, he tips the scales at 239 kilos (527 pounds), the heaviest among current top performers.

On Thursday he was admitted to hospital in Nagoya, central Japan, to be treated for a recurrence of the legendary malady of gourmands, a painful joint inflammation which especially afflicts the big top. (Reuters)

Chinese executed: Three murderers have been executed in Beijing as a crackdown on crime to "ensure a safe Asian Games" continues, an official newspaper said on Friday.

The three men, named as Feng Tao, Wang Tao and Xu Qisheng, beat the caretaker of a fish pond to death with bricks, stones and staffs last November because he tried to stop them poaching, the Beijing Daily said. (Reuters)

Hunan floods toll 264: The floods that ravaged the Hunan province of China last fortnight have claimed 264 lives and injured 3,775 people, the office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (Undro) said Thursday.

It added that while 71,400 houses had collapsed, 159,000 were damaged. About 4,737 tonnes of grain had been lost. The direct economic losses were estimated at \$435 million. (Kuna)

Sydney cops fail test: Criminals in Sydney city can have a sigh of relief after police admitted on Thursday that some officers can't shoot straight.

Thirty police, ranked from constable to senior sergeant, were dismissed and given desk jobs last month after failing shooting tests, a senior police officer said. (Reuters)

Koalas under threat: Australia's cuddly koalas, already stricken by venereal disease, are now threatened by a mystery ailment that causes blindness, a scientist said on Thursday.

Up to half the country's 400,000 koalas have chlamydia, a potentially fatal disease of the urinary tract, Australian scientists estimate. The new disease that attacks the eye was discovered among the marsupials on a tropical island off the Queensland coast, said ophthalmologist professor Lawrence Hirst. (Reuters)



New role for OAU: Beaten by civil war, riot, debt and famine, Africa's embattled leaders meet next week to debate the continent's role in a changing world.

The annual heads of state summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa on Monday is traditionally one of the show-pieces of the African political calendar.

But this year it is overshadowed by world events which threaten to spark political and economic upheavals.

The speed of changes to Eastern Europe and South Africa has left the world's poorest continent groping for a response and unleashing forces that could unsettle many of its leaders. (Reuters)

Third witness claims

Barry used drugs in '86

WASHINGTON, July 6, (AP) — A business partner of ex-model Rasheda Moore testified Thursday that she shared cocaine with Marion Barry at a 1986 party and she was "absolutely positive" the mayor snorted the drug through a straw.

Carole Bland Jackson was the third witness in Barry's drug and perjury trial who has claimed to have seen Barry using drugs. Jackson said she, Moore and Barry and another man used cocaine powder in the bathroom of a Washington apartment after a city-sponsored river cruise.

The mayor and Rasheda were sitting on the side of the bathtub and cocaine was visible, Jackson said. "I snorted first, then Rasheda took it, then the other gentleman and Mayor Barry."

Jackson said she later left after "the mayor came out and made sexual advances towards me which I declined."

Moore, who co-operated in the government sting against Barry, testified last week that she and Barry used drugs together more than 100 times. Convicted drug dealer Charles Lewis has also testified he used drugs with the mayor.

Meanwhile, a federal appeals court refused on Thursday to order that two black leaders be allowed to attend the Barry trial. Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson barred Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and an excommunicated priest last week, saying their presence could be "disruptive and very likely intimidating."

Barry, 54, has pleaded innocent to 10 misdemeanor cocaine possession charges, one misdemeanor cocaine conspiracy charge, and three felony charges of lying to a grand jury about his alleged drug use.

Assistant US attorney Judith Reichen asked Carole Jackson if she was sure the mayor has used cocaine after the 1986 river cruise.

Rebels deny kidnapping: The People's Liberation Army of Colombia has denied it kidnapped an American mining engineer and held him for 61 days until a ransom was paid, the Bogota newspaper *La Prensa* reported Wednesday.

A spokesman for the guerrilla group, in a telephone call to the newspaper, said the group had not kidnapped Scott Heimdal, who was abducted April 28 from a motorised canoe on a river along the Ecuador-Colombia border.

Heimdal, 27, of Peoria, Illinois, was released Friday by the kidnappers after his parents paid a \$60,000 ransom.

Ecuadorian police said the People's Liberation Army of Colombia was responsible for the kidnapping. He was held in Colombian territory until his release. (UPI)

US pins hopes on army: Although Guatemala's Army is widely accused of some heinous human rights violations, the Bush administration is pinning increasing hopes on it to combat drug trafficking, Western diplomats and Guatemalan officials said Thursday.

Those hopes come in light of disputes with the government of Guatemalan President Cerezo, whose hand-picked successor Alfonso Cabrero Hidalgo is suspected by Washington of personal involvement in Colombian cocaine shipment.

At best, President Cerezo shows little willingness to tackle the illegal drug trade, US officials suggest. (Kuna)

UK to aid Brazilian study: Britain has agreed to give Brazil a \$4.5 million line of credit to study the effects of the burning of the Amazon forest on the world's climate, the Agencia Estado news agency reported on Wednesday.

Under the first project to be financed, scientists will set up observation centres in four different Amazon areas to collect data on climate and the effects of deforestation. The project will last five years. (Reuters)

Latin America

Bogota blast, 1 hurt: A car bomb exploded in a wealthy suburb of the Colombian capital Bogota on Wednesday night, injuring one person and damaging buildings, police said.

Police blamed drug traffickers waging an 11-month-old war on the state for the blast, which occurred shortly after the army seized a big cocaine haul, local radio said.

"We assume that the mafia, the drug terrorists, are carrying out these acts to shock the community and to cause problems for the government," Bogota police chief General Nazim Yanez Diaz told reporters at the scene of the blast. (Reuters)

Contra kin return: Relatives of Nicaraguan Contra rebels, many of whom have spent up to nearly a decade in Honduras while Contras waged war on leftist Sandinistas, began returning home on Thursday under a United Nations repatriation plan.

Thursday's departure of some 150 Nicaraguans marks the start of the programme, funded by the United States, under which 20,000 Contra relatives left in Honduras are to be repatriated.

Some 2,000 wounded ex-combatants will also return home under the plan. (Reuters)

Still in command: A lieutenant colonel accused of cover-up in the murder of six Jesuit priests remained Thursday at the head of an elite infantry battalion, nine days after a judge ordered his arrest.

Security forces have not detained Lt Col Camilo Hernandez, despite Defence Minister Gen Humberto Larios' repeated promises of full military co-operation in the investigation.

Hernandez said last week he would turn himself in when ordered to by Larios or Col Rene Emilio Ponce, head of the joint chiefs of staff.

Ponce said the Defence Ministry didn't get a copy of the arrest warrant until Thursday, a week after it was issued. (AP)

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مركز الصحافة

'Father Teresa' aiding victims of Pakistan ethnic strife

KARACHI, Pakistan, July 6, (AP): When the streets of Pakistan's largest city explode in gunfire, Abdul Sattar Edhi rushes out into the urban battlefield.

With the siren on his beat-up mini-van blaring, he weaves through the streets on a mission of mercy, picking up the dead, the dying and the wounded.

A resurgence of ethnic and political violence has claimed more than 400 lives in Karachi and Hyderabad, 150 miles (250 kms) to the north, in the past month.

"When I go out on the streets of Karachi, I feel very sad," Edhi said of the bloodshed, which has transformed this once tranquil city on the sun-baked Arabian Sea into camps of heavily armed

gangs. Edhi operates the Edhi Welfare Foundation, a \$5-million-a-year charity he founded 30 years ago using a battered pickup truck as a one-man free ambulance service.

Steadily he built it into one of the subcontinent's biggest and best-organized social service networks, housing a fleet of 615 ambulances, a rescue helicopter, dozens of blood banks and shelters for mental patients, heroin addicts, battered wives, orphans, runaways and anyone else his staff finds wandering without help or hope.

"I was born a Muslim, but true religion is the service of humanity," said the white-bearded, "ruft"-voiced Edhi. "I'm just one man. I just want to help people."

He is called a saint, an angel of mercy, and his deeds have earned him the nickname "Father Teresa," the counterpart of the Roman Catholic nun who has spent her life working with the destitute and dying in the slums of Calcutta, India.

His telephone rings at all hours. He is ready for any emergency, always carrying a packed bag with a small satchel that contains a change of clothes — grey baggy pants and a matching shirt — rubber sandals, glasses, a toothbrush and a near-toothless comb.

Although his work reaches every part of Pakistan, the heart of his operation is Karachi, a city crowded with 9 million people, mostly poor and illiterate.

Born in the western Indian state of Gujarat, Edhi immigrated to Pakistan during the 1947 partition that ended British colonial rule of the subcontinent. And in many ways, Edhi's simple lifestyle mirrors Mohandas Gandhi, the Mahatma or "great soul" who led that freedom struggle.

Edhi and his wife, Bilquis, live in a stark room sandwiched between an office and a narrow room with only a wooden table where the bodies of Karachi's unwanted and unclaimed are laid out for burial.

Edhi's bed is a wooden plank resting on a steel frame. His wife has a mattress, her only concession to comfort. Mrs. Edhi, mother of four children, looks

around the room at the two-burner hot plate, a wooden table and a cupboard crammed with their possessions. "This is my paradise," she said.

The walls outside the dilapidated building are lined with fuzzy photographs of beggars who died in the alleyways around town.

"There are so many people lost and alone in this world," he sighed. "They die alone and no one cares. So we take their pictures and hope that maybe somebody will know them."

Edhi has buried a small city over the past three decades, washing more than 60,000 unidentified bodies and wrapping them in traditional white shrouds.

In less than three hours, three bodies arrived for burial. He had already washed and prepared two

earlier in the day. "Where else would they go?" he asked.

While Edhi cares for the dead, his wife looks after the living, setting up adoptions.

"I have seen so many children die. They were thrown in garbage cans, in gutters. So I thought I'll give them to the people who want them," she said.

She and her husband have set up homes for battered wives and centres to treat the city's 1 million heroin addicts. They also established a home for the handicapped and a girls' orphanage in two mansions in Karachi's affluent Clifton area, where Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto maintains a home.

Polls in northeast Sri Lanka

Parliament approves bill

COLOMBO, July 6, (Agencies): Parliament approved a bill today paving the way for elections in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, a key demand of Tamil rebels battling for an independent homeland.

The government, however, vowed to crush the rebels, while holding out the prospect of local elections in the Tamil stronghold. The moves appeared to be an effort to isolate the Tamil Tiger rebels from the Tamil populace.

Tamil residents participated in an earlier election, choosing provincial lawmakers opposed to the rebels. But the lawmakers later fled the

capital, fearing Tiger rebel attack after Indian troops withdrew from the island.

"I feel sorry for the Tigers," Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told Parliament. "They have missed their golden opportunity... to enter the democratic process. Now we will erase them from this Earth."

Wijeratne spoke during debate on legislation to dissolve the north-east provincial council and prepare for new elections.

"We are bringing this amendment to allow the Tamil-speaking people in the north and east to elect their true leaders," said Festus Perera, head of public administration, the department that oversees council laws.

The dissolution of the council and new elections were key demands of Tamil Tiger rebels when they held talks with the government during a 13-month ceasefire. The insurgents broke the peace on June 11 and sparked a fresh round of fighting in which at least 1,950 combatants have been killed.

Meanwhile, at least 65 people were killed across Sri Lanka in violence blamed on the militants and in police actions, military officials said yesterday.

This was in addition to police discovering charred bodies of 23 of their colleagues captured last month by Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Police said the bodies of 23 policemen were found Thursday in the burned-out ruins of the China Bay police station, one of a string of east coast police outposts overrun by the Tigers last month. At least 617 policemen taken captive by the Tigers are still missing, said police officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Government troops shot and killed 15 Tiger rebels in the eastern Ampara district, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Another 22 rebels were killed when their boats were sunk by government's naval gunboat in northeastern Mullaitivu district.

Elsewhere, rebels attacked troops on patrol, killing one officer and a soldier and wounding nine others in Ampara district on Thursday, officials said. They said 16 soldiers died in an ambush of a military truck in Trincomalee district, instead of 13 as they previously reported.

At least 10 civilians were killed in Trincomalee when they were caught in a crossfire between the rebels and government soldiers.

The officials said the rebels, under cover of heavy fire, also were fortifying mortar positions around a 200-year-old fort in Jaffna on Sri Lanka's northern peninsula where a garrison of Sinhalese soldiers has been under siege.

The Tigers ended a 13-month ceasefire June 11, renewing a seven-year war for independence for the Tamil-populated north and east regions from Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lanka.

Air force bombers pounded Tiger positions in thick jungles in the park to silence mortar and rocketfire. Dozens of hunkers were being smashed, officials said.

They said the military drive which began on Saturday is intended to clear roads to Mannar and reinforce troops under bombardment in two camps, one on a cashew plantation and one in Mannar town.



Relatives of Sri Lankan policemen killed by Tamil rebels in Trincomalee, mourn during their cremation on July 1. (Reuters wirephoto)

Singh faces uphill task

Cleaning up corruption

NEW DELHI, July 6, (AP): Prime Minister V.P. Singh's administration came into office with the promise of clean government and has launched an anti-corruption campaign, but its success is far from assured.

In fact, agreement seems general among Western and Indian diplomats and businessmen that Singh's plan to shake up state-run trading firms and reform industrial policy will do little to stem India's rising

tide of malfeasance.

Some believe the expected failure will have little effect on this huge country of 880 million people and that India will lumber into the future as it has through the past.

Many more believe, however, that continued corruption at current levels will break India's economy and threaten the stability of the world's most populous democracy.

"Corruption poses a major problem for us," said Shankar Acharya, a ranking Finance Ministry official who made a groundbreaking study of India's "black" economy. "It seems to be growing daily."

The problem permeates Indian society.

Traffic cops expect "bakshishes," small bribes, to ignore violations. Businessmen consider payoffs and kickbacks part of the job.

"Every business deal has a beneficiary," said a high official of the State Trading Corp., India's biggest state-run trading house. "If I make a little profit on a deal that benefits India, what's wrong with that?" he would not let his name be used.

Factors that encourage corruption multiplied as India's political system and economy developed. For about 20 years after independence from Britain in 1947, India was virtually a one-party state, run by the Congress Party. The growth of a viable opposition in the 1960s made elections more expensive, so political bosses turned to kickbacks for money.

An expanding economy, which grew an average of more than 5 per cent a year in the 1980s, created more wealth and, with it, more temptation.

Last year, when prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Congress Party were voted out of power, corruption played a major role for the first time in the downfall of a government.

Also for the first time, dirty deals have been blamed for huge losses in some industries.

India's fertilizer industry lost \$32 million in 1989 after posting a \$50-million profit the previous year.

The reason, diplomats and Indian officials say privately, was that Agriculture Ministry officials wanted a \$25-million kickback on a 500,000-ton purchase of phosphoric acid from Morocco's government phosphates company.

Morocco refused, India cancelled the contract and the fertilizer industry was without essential phosphoric acid, the informants said.

Corruption also contributes greatly to the balance of payments deficit that has built a foreign debt of about \$60 billion over the last 10 years, diplomats and Western economists say.

A report by a Western embassy in January, seen by the Associated Press, estimated one-third of India's Gross National Product disappears into "black" economy.

"The sheer number of beneficiaries is seemingly endless and the habit and pressure to ingrain that it would require a major change in society as a whole" to end corruption, the report said.

Singh's administration announced two major changes in May and June.

Politics, corruption Like hand, glove

ISLAMABAD, July 6, (AP): Politics and corruption go together in much of the world. In Pakistan, they are like hand and glove.

Corruption has been brought into the open by a newly free press and a shift toward democracy after more than a decade of military rule.

Accusations of questionable deals and financial wrongdoing turn up almost daily in newspapers, at news conferences and in speeches.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is not immune. "The opposition has launched a witch-hunt against members of my government and members of my family, and their behaviour is nothing short of criminal," she said in a recent interview. "There is a well-laid conspiracy to hurt one false charge after another, to manipulate the media."

"They are making baseless charges to discredit democracy. We have three courts in our country and people may go to these courts if they have anything."

Few Pakistanis take such accusations to the courts, which act slowly and inflict little, if any, punishment.

Benazir's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, is one of the opposition's main targets. "I am the soft belly," he said. "You hit me and you hit her."

Zardari and Benazir were married in 1987 while she still led the opposition to Gen. Muhammad Zia Ul-Haq, the late, military president.

"If an individual in her government is accused of being corrupt, the prime minister can get rid of him," he said. "If they say, the husband of the prime minister is corrupt, it echoes throughout the world. The larger the person, the louder the noise."

Benazir's two main rivals in parliament have filed a lawsuit accusing Zardari of trying to take over 287 acres (115 hectares) of Islamabad's National Park to build a luxury hotel and sports complex in the name of a company based in London.

One of them, Syedda Abida Hussain, said "the only person listed as its director in London is Benazir's cousin."

The government accuses its political opponents of obtaining millions of dollars worth of bank loans during the 11 years Zia was in office, then writing them off or repaying them on unusually favourable terms.

Twenty opposition figures, including leaders Nawaz Sharif and Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, are under government investigation for alleged wrongdoing. Sharif, chief minister of Punjab province, is accused of obtaining \$90 million in loans on special terms, with little collateral. He denies it.

"I offer myself to be investigated by a panel of supreme court judges, but along with me, Benazir and all politicians under suspicion should also be investigated for corruption," said Jatoi, leader of Combined Opposition Parties in the national assembly.

An alliance of 16 parties called the combined opposition recently issued collection of documents intended to implicate Benazir's 18-month-old government and her family in shady deals.

Allegations range from taking over valuable land and awarding vast mineral concessions in Sindh province, her power base, to building factories with dubious loans and obtaining financial interests in hotels and trade.

Immediately after copies of the dossier were given to Western diplomats and foreign journalists, Benazir sent four cabinet ministers to rebut the charges.

First, all state-run trading firms were put under a new umbrella organisation, Bharat Business International, which has the power to monitor international contracts, a major source of illegal wealth.

Then, the government announced an industrial policy designed to break the bureaucratic stranglehold on business licenses — the "license raj" — another major channel for bribes.

Diplomats and officials of the new government say international contracts are believed to have been a major source of revenue for the Congress Party when it and Rajiv Gandhi



Members of India's opposition Congress (I) Party shout anti-govt slogans during a demonstration outside Indian prime minister's residence in New Delhi. Youth Congress President Ramesh Chavrilhala (centre) leading the protest. (Reuters wirephoto)



Kashmir Muslims demanding freedom from India demonstrate outside the UN Military Observer Group office in Srinagar. (Reuters wirephoto)

Two 'Blackcats' killed in Punjab

AMRITSAR, July 6, (UPI):

Sikh militants attacked an elite national security guard 'Blackcat' commando unit early today, sparking a gun battle that left four rebels and two commandos dead, police said.

The encounter occurred just two days after two civilians were killed by stray bullets from fighting between commandos and militants in the nearby village of Manake.

The area is known as a stronghold for Sikh separatists who are waging a bloody campaign for a theocratic Sikh state. About 800 of India's 4,000 'Blackcat'

commandos, a specially-trained unit of the national security guard, have been deployed to northern Punjab state to stem the violence.

Police said today's attack occurred about 2 am as the commandos were waiting to ambush militants who, according to intelligence reports, were going to stage a meeting in a farmhouse near the village of Yamala, about 20 miles (30 km) south of Amritsar.

But about eight militants, apparently on their way to the meeting, spotted the commandos in the moonlight and opened

fire, killing two commandos and wounding five others, police said.

Four militants were killed when the commandos returned fire, police said.

At least four other militants escaped into a nearby sugar cane field. Security forces searched the area for the next three hours, but failed to make any arrests, police said.

More than 7,000 people have died since 1983 in separatist-related violence in Punjab. Militants allege that members of their faith, are discriminated.

Thursdays' ordinance extends to areas near the

Ceasefire Line which divides Kashmir between Indian and Pakistani control. The neighbouring countries have fought two wars over Kashmir.

An Indian government spokesman in New Delhi said Thursday's ordinance generalised powers which Kashmiri authorities had already been giving police on an ad hoc basis.

"Up to now they had to implement a particular clause of the penal code to have those powers," he said. "Now they don't have to do that."

India to resume Airbus flights

Cabinet accepts panel report

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, July 6: The Indian government has formally decided to resume flying the grounded Airbus A-320 aircraft from the third week of this month, ending all speculation about the future of the "fly-wire" machines in the last few months.

All 14 Airbus A-320s in the Indian Airlines fleet were ordered grounded Feb 19 after a major air crash in Bangalore five days earlier left 93 passengers and crew dead, and about 50 others injured. Simultaneously, the government decided to suspend acceptance of deliveries of four more A-320s, which were ready at Airbus Industrie in Toulouse, France.

The decision to reinstate the A-320s in a phased manner comes after the union cabinet met earlier this week and accepted in full the recommendations made by the high-powered committee headed by Air Marshal S. Ramdas. The panel had been

constituted after the Bangalore crash to go into the state of preparedness of Indian Airlines to handle such sophisticated aircraft.

The committee, in its final report, has been critical of the manner in which the A-320s were sought to be inducted into Indian Airlines. It felt the rate of induction was too rapid for the operating and maintenance staff to prepare themselves for the technological demands of the aircraft.

It said the Indian Airlines management had not appreciated these demanding requirements and the airline was consequently ill-prepared to accept such numbers of aircraft and operate them on the scale planned.

The committee was of the view that deficiencies in the airlines' system could now be made up and operation of the A-320s resumed in a phased manner after implementing all recommendations made in its interim report earlier.

Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohamed Khan told reporters that initially Indian Airlines would reinstate two A-320s on the main trunk routes. The routes being proposed include Hyderabad-Delhi, Hyderabad-Madras, and Hyderabad-Bombay. Indian Airlines is expected to complete the reinduction of all 14 A-320s in its fleet in about four months. That is roughly the time the airline would need to implement the recommendations of the Ramdas Committee at all stations being covered by the A-320s.

Meanwhile, a top-level Indian Airlines team is currently in Toulouse for discussions with Airbus Industrie. The team is expected to negotiate a delay in the delivery of the remaining four aircraft due now and also persuade the European consortium not to impose any charges on this count.

The government's decision to resume

flying with the A-320s means that it has shelved, for the time being at least, all plans announced earlier to sell or lease out the aircraft, though some good offers were received in response to the global tenders floated.

This must partly be due to the severe capacity shortages being faced by Indian Airlines and the difficulties of buying new aircraft in a tight market. In any case, there has been no conclusive evidence that the Bangalore crash was attributable to any technical fault and the report of the court of inquiry is awaited. The grounding of the A-320s meant a weekly loss of Rs 2.5 crores for the airlines.

The government is making all efforts to restore the confidence of the travelling public. It had referred the Ramdas Committee's report to a high-level panel of defence scientists, who have fully endorsed the recommendations.

Poland purges five old guards

Mazowiecki urges early polls

WARSAW, July 6, (Reuters): Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki purged former communists and their allies from his cabinet today and urged early elections to set the seal on Poland's transition to democracy.

Mazowiecki fired five ministers, including three prominent ex-communists, to help freshen the image of the Solidarity-led government and revive its flagging programme of reforms.

He proposed elections be held "significantly earlier" than next spring, saying the fragile democracy created by Solidarity was threatened.

"Originally I expressed the view that totally democratic elections should take place no later than next spring. Today I emphasise the phrase 'no later than' as I feel that significantly earlier dates should also be considered," Mazowiecki told Parliament's lower house, the Sejm.



Mazowiecki (left) greets Vranitzky at Warsaw airport, July 5. (Reuters wirephoto)



Pressure mounts on Mladenov

Bulgaria's President Petar Mladenov came under fresh pressure to resign on Friday. Even his own party newspaper sided with students demanding his departure.

Demonstrators staged fresh protests against Mladenov in Sofia and Western diplomats said tension was increasing.

Up to 1,000 protesters demonstrated outside the presidential office in the city centre. Student leaders issued a declaration demanding that Mladenov quit by 6 pm (1700 GMT). They threatened to call a general strike from Monday if he refused.

"Politics is a man's game," the paper Douma said in a front-page editorial. "Someone who is not good enough has to leave the stage."

Above, leading intellectuals Nicola Sevoj (right) and Sashadjev argue with militiamen in front of the presidency in Sofia July 6. They too are supporting the strike. (Reuters wirephoto)

Havel becomes first president

Move towards democracy

PRAGUE, July 6, (Agencies): Former dissident playwright Vaclav Havel yesterday became Czechoslovakia's first freely elected President in 55 years, marking the end of the first phase in the country's move towards democracy.

"I promise that within the limits of my prerogatives and to the best of my ability... I will do everything to help lead this country to a better future," he told thousands of well-wishers thronging the courtyard of Prague's Hradcany castle, the president's castle residence.

Havel, 53, was elected for a two-year term by a secret ballot of parliamentary deputies, winning the necessary three-fifths majority. He was the only candidate.

Of the 284 deputies present out of the 300-member Parliament, 234 voted for Havel and 50 against.

The Parliament itself was voted into office last month, in the country's first democratic elections since 1946.

The playwright and long-time dissident was leader of the civic forum human rights movement, which spearheaded the toppling of Czechoslovakia's communist dictatorship in a peaceful popular revolt last November.

Havel was first elected interim President in December and pledged to guide the country to free elections. After this the new parliament, elected for two years, was to be free to decide on who was to lead the country.

Havel said he welcomed the fact that his election had not been unanimous.

"It is proof that the election was democratic. I would not feel well if I had been elected with 100 per cent of votes, like my predecessors," Havel told journalists shortly after the vote.

■ The Czechoslovak People's Party has filed a lawsuit against Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetský for alleged blackmail and abuse of the power, the party's daily Lidova Demokracie reported.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has strongly criticised the government for building democracy too slowly and failing to sweep away the former communist old guard after the party disbanded last January.

Leading casualties of Mazowiecki's dismissals were General Florian Siwicki, defence minister since 1983, and Interior Minister General Dzeslaw Kiszczak.

Kiszczak interned thousands of Solidarity activists under martial law in 1981 to crush the union, but eight years later headed negotiations that led to its re-legalisation. He briefly held the post of premier last August.

Deal

Transport Minister Adam Wieladek was the third ex-communist to go.

Agriculture Minister Czeslaw Janicki and Communications Minister Marek Kucharski, both members of parties formerly allied with the communists, were also fired.

All five men had kept their jobs until now as part of a deal by which the Communist Party agreed to give up power to Solidarity last year.

Their departure leaves former party leader President Wojciech Jaruzelski isolated as the only ex-communist in a key position of power. Foreign Trade Minister Marcin Swieticki, a respected technocrat, is the last member of the old ruling party in the cabinet.

Warning

Mazowiecki said "Krzysztof Kozlowski, a former opposition journalist who already heads the reformed security police as deputy interior minister, would take over the ministry."

Vice-Admiral Piotr Kolodziejczyk would replace Siwicki at defence. Two Solidarity figures, Ewaryst Waligorski and Artur Balazs, were given the transport and agriculture portfolios.

Mazowiecki said he would name his new communications minister later.

The Solidarity premier warned against conflict and unrest that could threaten Polish democracy.

"Today as I stand before you I must state that I see threats to our peaceful Polish road of democratic change," he said. "A brutal struggle is emerging in which opponents are treated like enemies to be destroyed."

Attack

Mazowiecki's government was harshly attacked by Walesa which split Solidarity in which the two worked closely for 10 years.

It also faces mounting discontent over economic policies which have cut real wages by a third and created half a million unemployed.

Mazowiecki, in a wide-ranging speech, told deputies his government would stick to its economic austerity programme even though this meant hardship and sacrifices.

But he said the government would spend more heavily in the second half of the year, moving from budget surplus into deficit and allocating more resources to local councils, social aid, health and agriculture.

Risks

The switch, which Mazowiecki acknowledged involved certain risks, aims at shaking the economy out of a deep recession which has cut industrial production by 30 per cent.

Mazowiecki said the government would soon present a bill to liberalise conditions for foreign investors, including the transfer abroad of profits.

Tehran desires to free captives Kidnap chief falls out with Iran

BEIRUT, July 6, (Reuters): The kidnap master believed responsible for abducting most Western hostages in Lebanon has fallen out with Iran because of Tehran's desire to free the captives, Muslim fundamentalist sources said yesterday.

They said Imam Moughneyeh, one of the founders of the underground Islamic Jihad group, had rebased in Lebanon from Iran because of intense Iranian pressure to free hostages and improve links with the West.

Moughneyeh's group is believed to hold most of the 15 Western hostages in Lebanon, including American Terry Anderson, the longest-held Western captive, seized in May, 1985.

Americans Robert Poftill and Frank Reed were released in Beirut in April in what their pro-Iranian captors described as goodwill gestures. Both Iran and Syria were heavily involved in winning the hostages' freedom.

"Imad and the people with him did not

want to free the two Americans for nothing. They were pressed by the Iranians and, in the end, had to give in," a Shiite Muslim source told Reuters in Beirut.

"But Imad didn't like it and left his headquarters in Tehran to show his discontent," he said.

"The (kidnappers) ... want Iran to treat them as partners, not as tools," the source said.

He said tension between Moughneyeh and the Iranians started early this year when he learned of an Iranian decision to win freedom for the hostages to improve Iran's image in the West and receive much-needed economic aid.

Six Americans are among the Western captives in Lebanon. The others are three Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

Iran denies it controls hostage-takers in Lebanon.

Moughneyeh insists that Western hostages

should be released only after a deal is struck to ensure freedom for Lebanese and Palestinians in Israeli jails, he said.

Moughneyeh, in his early 30s, lived in a Tehran hotel for three years. Using an Iranian passport, he regularly visited Lebanon to check on the hostages and their guards.

Hismen—members of Hezbollah—maintain bases in Beirut's southern suburbs, the eastern Bekaa Valley and the southern port city of Sidon.

The sources said that although the Iranian administration has decided to "close the hostage file," there were some "centres of influence" inside Tehran that sympathised with the captors.

While Iranian pragmatists, including President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, want to take advantage of the hostage card to improve Iran's ties with the West, some hardliners want to exact a high price from the West.



An Israeli policeman holds a Palestinian man around the neck as another policeman twists his arm from behind, July 6. (Reuters wirephoto)

Crackdown on Kosovo

Serbia suspends Parliament, government

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, July 6, (Reuters): Yugoslavia's biggest republic, Serbia, cracked down on opposition and the media in Kosovo today, a day after suspending the predominantly ethnic Albanian province's Parliament and government.

Helmeted police armed with semi-automatic rifles stood guard outside the buildings of the Albanian-language television, radio and newspaper in simmering heat in the Kosovo capital Pristina.

Ethnic Albanian opposition leaders appealed for calm in an effort to avoid a repeat of riots against Serbian rule in which at least 50 people,

mostly Albanians, have been killed over the past 18 months.

Serbia suspended Kosovo's Parliament and government yesterday three days after rebel Albanian deputies in the regional Parliament declared independence from Serbia, of which Kosovo is a part.

Jusuf Buxhovi, secretary of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, the leading local Albanian opposition group, said today several leaders of the alliance, including its president, Ibrahim Rugova, were interrogated by police last night. They were later released.

Buxhovi held a news conference in front of the Kosovo Writers'

Ceausescu's sister paid for no work

BUCHAREST, July 6, (Reuters): The sister of executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was paid for 12 years as supervisor at an electrical goods factory that never turned up for work, a Bucharest court was told yesterday.

Maria Agache has been charged with defrauding the state and using improper influence to obtain refrigerators, televisions and freezers which she sold for a total of \$80,000 lei (\$30,000), Romania's new agency Rompres reported.

Agache, one of several Ceausescu family members facing trial, had her case adjourned until July 19.

Post-poll violence in Algeria

ALGIERS, July 6, (Reuters): Two policemen and eight youths were injured, six of them with bullet wounds, in post-election violence in south Algeria, the radio and the official news agency APS reported.

Police arrived several hours later, detained some of the youths and confiscated their weapons, they said.

Three people were killed in several injured in Bretriane, 430 km (270 miles) south of Algiers, on June 26 after a judicial committee rejected electoral complaints from the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

They were disputing the election of a group of independent to the local council in the June 12 local elections.

The Algerian press said this week that the independents were backed by members of the Ibadi sect, which is strong in the M'zab valley around Berriane but rare in the rest of the Muslim world. The FLN and FIS supporters were ordinary Sunni Muslims.

Biblical waters dip: The Sea of Galilee, where Christians believe Jesus walked on the water, has dipped to the lowest level ever recorded, an Israeli water official said on Friday.

"For about 100 years we have known the level of the Sea of Galilee and there was never a year as low as 1990," said Zvi Onenberger, chairman of the Sea of Galilee Authority.

At the end of the rainy season in April, the lake stood at a record low of 211.34 metres (700 feet) below sea level.

The lake provides a third of Israel's fresh water and its level was bound to fall further in the next few hot months, Onenberger said. The rainy season begins in October.

The Christian gospels tell of Jesus walking on the sea to comfort and save disciples aboard a foundering ship in a storm. The Sea of Galilee is also known as Lake Tiberias or Kinneret.

Israel is facing its worst water crisis ever after two dry winters, with supplies to some areas cut by 25 per cent.



Vying for leadership

Former dalanica minister Yitzhak Rabin holds his hands up while speaking to the foreign press June 4. Rabin who is vying for the leadership of the dovish Labour Party spoke of the need for new elections in Israel to prevent the rise of extremism in the Arab world. Rabin also spoke on the need to re-start the stalled peace process. (Reuters wirephoto)

Their meeting followed months of criticism of February UN report which did not include any proof of opposition accusations that Iran was executing political dissidents.

The two said they demanded the United Nations not send the author of the report, Salvadoran lawyer Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, back to Iran but replace him with another representative who would be accompanied by a resistance leader.

Iran has invited Galindo Pohl for a second visit to follow up his report.

Iran reconstruction: Tehran announced Thursday that the Iranian government had earmarked \$20 billion for the reconstruction of north-western areas of the country that were devastated in a violent earthquake on June 21.

Unicef appeal for Iran quake: The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) appealed on Friday for six million dollars to give Iran emergency relief after last month's earthquake.

It sought \$3.5 million to buy tents, water pumps, medicine, health kits, water purification tablets and other supplies and \$500,000 to transport the aid.

"The impact of the earthquake on children and mothers has been disastrous," the organisation said in a statement appealing for the money.

The UN Disaster Relief Organisation estimated this week that 130 million dollars of assistance had been sent to Iran since the June 21 disaster, in which tens of thousands of people were killed.

UN report controversy: Iranian resistance leaders on Thursday asked the United Nations to withdraw a moderately critical human rights report on Iran, saying its mildness had encouraged Tehran to assassinate opposition leader Kazem Rajavi in Switzerland last April.

Dr Saleh Radjavi and Michelle Radjavi, brother and widow of the slain leader, made their complaints to assistant UN Secretary-General James Jonah.

E. Germany supplied arms to Syria, Egypt: DPA

BONN, July 6, (UPI): The West German news agency DPA said yesterday it had documents proving East Germany had supplied fighter planes and missiles to Egypt and Syria during the 1967 six-day war between Israel and Egypt.

The agency said it had obtained secret documents showing that the communist East German government was the first in the Warsaw Pact, after the Soviet Union, to respond positively to Egypt's request for arms supplies.

It said the documents showed that East Germany supplied Soviet-made bomber planes, several thousand missiles and other military equipment to Egypt and Syria.

The agency said the documents indicated — but did not clearly state — that East Germany also supplied tanks.

The document said that socialist countries needed to co-operate with Arab states in the fight against "Israel's aggression, carried out as part of the global strategy of US-imperialism."

Meanwhile, Syria yesterday protested a recent Israeli rocket attack near the huffer zone in the Golan Heights and called for "appropriate steps" to prevent such incidents in the future.

The Syrian protest was filed with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in a letter sent by the Damascus government.

The incident occurred June 6 but was reported to the United Nations only now because it took that long to establish that the rocket was made in the United States.

Weapons delivery to PLO ignored

MUKHTARA, Lebanon, June 6, (UPI): Druze Muslim leader and militia leader Walid Jumlat has charged that Israel is overlooking large deliveries of arms to the Palestinians in southern Lebanon and the Christian Lebanese Forces militia of Samir Geagea.

Massive shipments of weapons and ammunition are being delivered to Samir Geagea and the Palestinians in south Lebanon, Jumlat said in an interview with United Press International at his compound in Mukhtara in the Shouf Mountains, 5 miles (24 km) southeast of Beirut.

Jumlat said a ship called the "Atlantic," loaded with arms, has repeatedly sailed from Iraq and unloaded its cargo in the southern port city of Sidon south of Beirut and in harbour controlled by Geagea's militia north of Beirut.

Israeli gunboats that patrol Lebanese territorial waters have refrained from stopping the arms shipments, Jumlat said.

"They came to disload weapons by sea, and who controls the sea?" The 43-year-old Druze leader asked. "They (the Israelis) are helping everybody in Lebanon to fight each other, to destroy each other."

Asked if he is ready to dissolve his militia to strengthen the authority of pro-Syrian Christian Maronite President Elias Hrawi, Jumlat replied: "How can I dissolve my militia at a time militancy everywhere and bringing reinforcements and at a time (Hrawi's) government, to which I belong, crumbles?"

Jumlat, who is Lebanon's minister of public works and tourism, has launched a "peace campaign" against Hrawi's government, accusing other ministers of corruption and mismanagement.

"Who would protect me and who would give me guarantees (if I dismantled the militia)?" Jumlat asked. He stressed that he would not dishand his force while his Christian foe is becoming better armed and while the Palestinian factions in south Lebanon are acquiring more strength.

"The Palestinians in Lebanon are not a military power," Jumlat said. And if there is a plan to throw them out (of the Israeli occupied territories) to Lebanon and Jordan... what can we do?"

Jumlat said he doesn't know how many Palestinian fighters, forced to evacuate Beirut after the 1982 Israeli invasion, have returned to Lebanon.

Tension is building between Jumlat's 7,000-strong Progressive Socialist Party and followers of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat along the southern edges of the Druze-controlled Shouf Mountains.

Recent reports indicate the Druze leader reinforced his militia in the region to head off what he said was PLO expansionist designs against his area.

A high-ranking PLO commander, Lt Col Kamal Medhat, said last week that Druze reinforcement in the district of Iqlim Al Kharrub included the massing of tanks, multi-barrel rocket launchers and heavy machine-guns.

Jumlat said an Arab-Israeli war is inevitable following the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories.

"I simply see war coming, Israel will find few pretexts in south Lebanon or against (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein to launch a military operation," he said.

Rival Shiite gunmen were streaming in to south Lebanon in apparent preparation for a major battle, security sources said yesterday.

They said Syrian-backed Amal and pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) militias reinforced positions in the Iqlim Al Tufah area, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut. (Reuters)

■ Lebanese forces loyal to rebel Gen. Michel Aoun and militia chieftain Samir Geagea skirmished for three hours in east Beirut yesterday despite a Vatican-brokered ceasefire in their inconclusive power struggle.

Police said the clash with mortars and machine-guns wounded a woman passer-by and a 14-year-old girl student in the Aoun-held district of Dekwaneh. (AP)

■ Violent explosions destroyed buildings of the Phalangist Party in Ein Al Kharrub village in the Christian Kriwan area, while intermittent fighting continued in eastern Beirut. (Kuna)

Lebanon has called on the UN to reinvestigate information on diverting waters from south Lebanon by Israel, Lebanese diplomatic sources said in Beirut yesterday.

The sources told Kuna that the request was officially submitted through Lebanon's mission to the United Nations. (Kuna)

سور املال

Israel adopts 'low profile' tactics in remote Gaza town

RAFAH, Gaza Strip, July 6, (Reuters): Israeli troops have taken a new low profile in the occupied Gaza Strip town of Rafah, leaving masked Arab activists to roam unhindered in streets bedecked with banned Palestinian flags.

Arab and military sources say for the past two months troops have stayed out of sight in Rafah to reduce deaths in the anti-Israeli town and adjoining refugee camp, home to some 140,000 Palestinians.

June marked the first month of the 31-

month-old Palestinian uprising that the army had killed no Palestinians in Gaza, the Israeli human rights group B'tselem said on Thursday.

Throughout Rafah, the Palestinian colours dominate the streets and the olive green of Israeli uniforms is seldom seen.

Merchants said they had not seen troops in the centre of town for weeks.

In what Palestinians said was unprecedented behaviour, scores of masked youths from

various political groups often walk the streets during daylight hours, banding out leaflets and spray-painting nationalist graffiti.

An experienced Gaza journalist said he could hardly believe what was happening. "I asked myself: 'What the hell is this, are we in occupied territory?'" It was as if they were preparing the town for independence.

Military sources said that in recent months troops had stopped ordering Rafah residents to remove flags and white-wash graffiti. "These are little things. The main issue is

that troops do not go into Rafah unless there is something special. Rafah is isolated from soldiers, some would say it is liberated," a military source said.

Military sources said the military low profile was a new tactic aimed at avoiding clashes. It has not been adopted in other parts of the strip.

At the southern tip of the 45 km long (28 mile) strip and straddling the Egyptian border, Rafah is the most remote and least accessible area in Gaza.

During the intifada (uprising), Rafah had witnessed some of the fiercest clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces. Troops have sometimes wounded more than 100 Palestinians in Rafah in a single day.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens said during a visit to the Gaza Strip on Thursday he would cut troops in the occupied areas if uprising violence eased.

"If we see that as the army presence is reduced, the level of violence reduces as well,

then we will continue with the policy," said Arens, named defence minister last month in the most right-wing cabinet in Israel's history.

Major General Matan Vilnai, army commander for the southern region that includes Gaza, has indicated that troops have been instructed to curb shooting.

Vilnai told the army journal: "As a result of the change in policy... the population understands that they are no longer facing an army that opens fire and kills with no apparent reason."

PLO reviewing uprising strategy

May authorise use of new weapons: Zaki

TUNIS, July 6, (Agencies): The PLO, facing the most rightwing government in Israel's history, is reviewing the strategy of the Palestinian uprising and may authorise new weapons, a top PLO official said.

"I think a government containing (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir, (Housing Minister Ariel) Sharon and (Minister of Agriculture Rafael) Eitan... must be confronted with every instrument — stones, fires, sharp instruments — and things previously banned must be used," said

Abbas Zaki in an interview published yesterday. Zaki, secretary of the PLO's uprising (intifada) committee and a senior member of Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement, was asked if this included firearms, banned by the PLO and the unified command of the 30-month-old intifada.

Zaki told Reuters: "At the moment we don't have any. But we have to use everything we have. We are not prepared to be slaughtered like

Soviet Jews migration via Finland

PLO seeks Arab sanctions

HELSINKI, Finland, July 6, (AP): The PLO said Thursday it expects Arab nations to impose sanctions against Finland and other countries allowing the transfer of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"I am very optimistic that Arab government ministers will adopt our proposal later this month," said Palestine Liberation Organization representative Zuhair Al Wazir.

Arab League Foreign Ministers meet in Tunis,

Finland Foreign Ministry officials declined to comment.

Foreign Minister Pertti Pasio said Tuesday that Soviet Jews could begin emigration "to Israel via Finland next week."

The operation would make Finland the fourth major route from Soviet Jewish emigration, along with Hungary, Romania and Poland.

Israel said last week it would not settle Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip, where millions of Palestinians live.

Finland will allow El Al, the Israeli airline, to make flights each week carrying some 200 emigrants. The flights will leave from Lappeenranta airport, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Soviet border.

The emigrants, mainly from around Leningrad, will be shuttled to Lappeenranta in Finnish buses.

Pasio said security risks were involved. However, he said the government had not received threats from terrorists.

Finland's soldiers serving in the United Nations peacekeeping force in South Lebanon have been alerted to possible attacks by extremist groups, officials said.

Police in Lappeenranta said they have increased security measures.

Al Wazir said the "government's decision to allow Soviet Jews to transit Finland was not an internal affair."

"The PLO regrets this decision, which is part of the continuous wave of immigration of Jews into Israel. The immigration itself is a military act against the Palestinians," he said.

"We are warning the international community of the effects of this immigration," Al Wazir said.

He said the PLO has not threatened the Finnish government with violence but added that the organisation could not vouch for other groups.

"We condemn violence... but I cannot say that nothing will happen," he said.

Some 10,000 Jews were currently living in the Leningrad area close to Finland, but the number wishing to leave Soviet Union through Finland was not immediately known.

Kuna adds: The Soviet Foreign Ministry Thursday reiterated the Soviet rejection of opening a direct air route between Moscow and Tel Aviv to carry Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel.

Tunisia, July 6 to discuss the Middle East situation. Al Wazir said in a telephone interview that the PLO seeks both political and economic sanctions, including "boycotting of airlines of the countries involved."

"At the moment we are continuing our talks with Moscow and have asked that they completely stop the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union," he said.

US Secretary of State James Baker is seeking talks with Israel's new foreign minister in an apparent effort to stop the deterioration in American-Israeli relations, Israeli officials said on Friday.

They told Reuters a letter from Baker was delivered to David Levy on Thursday offering a meeting "as soon as possible."

Levy's aides favour a meeting but say the time and place depend on his recovery from a mild heart attack last month.

While hawkish in his speeches, Levy has a reputation as a pragmatist in his deeds.

The Israeli officials said Baker wrote: "I hear you are a problem solver."

A leader of hardline ministers in the right-wing Likud party of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, he railed against Baker's proposals to include Arabs from Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem and Palestinian deportees in proposed peace talks with Israel.

Saying the proposals were really the ideas of the PLO, branded by Israel as a terrorist group, Levy told the Israeli daily Yedioth Aharnoth last week.

"We are not going to grovel and crawl to the United States. We are very interested in its friendship but we will not stand still when danger lurks. We will not be good kids and agree to have our lives dictated to us."

US President George Bush reportedly assured Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that the United States wants to continue its dialogue with Israel in order to advance peace in the Middle East.

Bush's message was relayed during a meeting between Shamir and US Ambassador William Brown, Israeli television said.

Shamir's spokesman Yossi Ahimor confirmed that such a meeting took place Thursday, but added that he had no information about any message or letter from Bush.

Brown also brought a letter from US Secretary of State James Baker III to Foreign Minister David Levy, Israeli Radio said. In the letter, described by Levy's office as "warm as friendship," Baker suggested a meeting with his Israeli counterpart, it said.

The reported US messages may be regarded as a hopeful sign for Israel, since Shamir's stand on peace, seen as rejectionist, has caused much irritation in Washington.

In another development, State Attorney Yosef Harish, responding to an appeal from lawmaker Ran Cohen of the leftist citizen's rights movement, ordered a police investigation into a pamphlet distributed to Jewish settlers, Israeli Radio said.

The anonymous pamphlet, quoted by Israeli media Wednesday, urged settlers to shoot at Palestinians and have detailed instructions on how to obtain guns and avoid capture. It advised settlers to gather explosives from the army, masquerade as soldiers during attacks and leave misleading evidence behind.

The radio said Harish decided the pamphlet contained inciteful material and called for violation of law.

More than 130 Jewish settlements have been built in the West Bank and Gaza since they were captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

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But Cohen said the city's plans were still far from approval. "We, of course, praise all the plans, but we need to check out how feasible they are. Some still are only theory. If they are feasible, we will help," he said.

"We are already building 4,800 units in Naveh Yaskov, Talpiot, Gilo, Ramot and Pisgat Ze'ev, Malcha and Masuwa Hill. Of them, 2,000 are inside the green line, in Malcha and Masuwa Hill. We have plans for 4,500 more next year," Cohen added.

The so-called green line separates between Israel and the lands it captured in 1967, including East Jerusalem.

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Arens plan

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens (left) speaks with Palestinian fisherman Abu Ali in the town of Dir el Balah in Gaza Strip. Arens suggested a troop reduction in the Gaza Strip in an attempt to prevent Palestinian casualties. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Bigger the better'

Shaheen darling of Afghan refugees

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, July 6, (Reuters): Clad in a skin-tight dress and weighing close to 200 pounds (90 kg), Musarrat Shaheen stumbles and shakes across movie screens to the whistles and cat-calls of her Afghan fans.

Many in the audience are refugees and mujahideen fighters whose own wives and fiancées would be caught dead outside the house without a top-to-toe Muslim veil.

"The Afghan community is so conservative, and so segregated, that people need things like Musarrat Shaheen for some kind of relief," said one journalist in Pakistan's frontier town of Peshawar, centre of the 3.5 million Afghan refugee community in Pakistan.

Shaheen is probably the biggest, and the largest, star to emerge from Pakistani movie studios making films in Pashtu, the language of the main Afghan tribe, which is widely spoken in the refugee camps.

Like the other female stars of the genre — which local newspapers call "obscene" — Shaheen is big, loves to dance, and totally disregards the laws of Islamic propriety.

"I see a man that I like, I take him," she said in one recent movie, whose title, loosely translated, is "Lust for Revenge."

The centre of her cult is Peshawar's Sukarno Square, a crowded street of movie theatres where people start in awe at three-storey billboards depicting Shaheen and others in action.

"People in this province like their women big, the bigger the better, actually," said the journalist, himself a Pashtun.

"Big, bosomy, sturdy thighs, huge buttocks and hairy waistlines" are de rigueur for Pashtu heroines, the weekly magazine Newsline said in a recent report.

With names like "Storm" and "Rage," Sha-

been's films reflect the violent ethos that has come to characterise the Afghan community here, where disputes are often settled with a rifle and vengeance is an honoured tradition.

Almost every character in "Lust for Revenge" is dead by the end of the film. Most die in volleys of machine gun fire, but others are thrown into tanks filled with water snakes, stabbed repeatedly by men on horseback, and whipped by gangs wielding heavy steel chains.

Kung-fu style fight scenes dominate most pictures, but the audience usually saves its heartiest applause for Musarrat Shaheen, who bounces into unlikely situations to begin her trade-mark dance routine.

In "Lust for Revenge" she dances on a golf course, atop a children's swing, aboard a paddle-boat and at gun-point in a drug baron's lair.

In one number, she leads a chorus line of equally large women while wearing an elaborate head-dress of fake pearls.

Shaheen's style, described by one Peshawar fan as "mostly jumping and shrieking," makes the most of her ample figure. Always fully clothed, she struts and preens in tight trousers, flashy blouses and dark sunglasses.

Shaheen's movies play to packed houses. The audience — all male by Afghan custom — is frisked for weapons before entering the theatre and many customers check for bombs under their seats before sitting down.

So many people wanted to see the early morning showing of one film on a recent Muslim holiday that police had to baton-charge the crowd to disperse them.

Shaheen's success has angered others who say that the seamy titillations in her movies have hijacked traditional cultural values.

Report on Israel Cuellar studying

GENEVA, June 6, (Kuna):

Perez De Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary General said here yesterday that he was 'studying thoroughly' the extensive report submitted by his personal representative Jean-Claude Aime, who has just returned from a fact-finding mission to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

During his meeting with the Press Corps, an annual event, he said, "I am in the process of analysing his report" adding that it was "premature" to draw conclusions now.

Cuellar expressed satisfaction over the visit of Aime to Israel and the Arab territories occupied by it, noting that the Israeli authorities had provided his envoy the necessary facilities to contact Palestinians — in Israel and the occupied territories.

With respect to efforts to solve the Middle East conflict, Cuellar said the United Nations was pursuing a 'preventive diplomacy'

and expressed 'heightened anguish' at the situation prevailing there. He regretted that despite efforts, the UN had not managed to make headway.

Asked whether, in view of the known Israeli repression of the Palestinian people, he favoured sanctions against Israel, on the line of those imposed against South Africa, Cuellar stressed the role of 'dialogue' in achieving peace. He added that he was 'a little encouraged' that Israel had 'opened' to his personal representative, in terms of allowing him to visit people and places and the facilities extended.

To a question posed by Kuna, that in the light of the initial report provided to him by Aime, whether he saw any immediate prospects of providing international protection to Palestinians in the occupied territories, the secretary general said the matter had to be decided by the security council.

Kabul seeks Muslim help to break isolation

KABUL, June 6, (Reuters): President Najibullah tried to break Afghanistan's diplomatic isolation this week when he sent goodwill messages to leaders of some 30 Islamic countries for the Muslim festival of Eid-Al-Adha, diplomats said.

"Goodwill messages to all these countries have been despatched with an appeal in strengthening co-operation in the Islamic world," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Humayun Mukammel on Thursday.

Diplomats said Najibullah had called for help from the Muslim countries to end the 12-year-old Afghan civil war.

Najibullah appealed to the Islamic Conference Organisation in April to restore Kabul's membership, suspended soon after a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979.

"Najibullah now feels it would be easier to end the country's isolation since Soviet troops have gone home," a diplomat said.

But observers said the President's messages were unlikely to have any dramatic effect because of strong opposition from countries such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, as well as the Mujahideen a group based in Pakistan and Iran.

Nevertheless, Najibullah appears to feel the time is right because he recently completed the final stage of an internal peace plan with the convening last week of the first congress of the ruling party in 25 years.

Suspected 'informers' killed in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 6, (Reuters): The bodies of two Arabs, apparently killed by Palestinian militants on suspicion of being Israeli informers, were found on the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Friday, residents said.

Khaled Abu Samaha, 45, was found by relatives in a field outside his home village of Kufr Jammal, near the town of Tulkarm. Masked activists had kidnapped him from his home on May 28, Palestinians reported.

The body of 50-year-old Saleh Tahir was found near Al Amari refugee camp, outside the town of Ramallah. Palestinians said Tahir, long accused of helping Israeli security forces, was kidnapped by masked activists several days ago.

They said he was abducted along with another 20-year-old resident, Firas Hassan Hamdan, on the eve of the Muslim Eid Al Adha festival on Sunday.

Hamdan, who was among 416 Palestinian political prisoners released by Defence Minister Moshe Arens as a goodwill gesture, was found dead on Wednesday night. Palestinians said he became an informer in jail.

An Israeli army spokesman confirmed a body was found near Kufr Jammal and the police were investigating. They said they were checking the report on the second man.

On Thursday, Palestinian activists said he had killed 22-year-old Fadi Abu Aziz, whose body was found on the same day to the southern town of Rafah, because he was a collaborator.

Palestinians said a brother of Abu Aziz was killed by nationalists for aiding Israeli early in June.

'It's a hand-to-mouth existence': Egyptian workers hit hard by price rises

CAIRO, July 6, (Reuters): Despite a university degree and two jobs, Abu Mohammed's life has become a hand-to-mouth struggle to find the money to feed his wife and three children.

"I think about food, mainly. I don't know how we manage. It's a hand-to-mouth existence," the 44-year-old government worker said.

After 26 years as a municipality official he takes home a monthly 170 Egyptian pounds, now worth \$63.

Abu Mohammed is one of the lucky ones. His wife Huda works as a chemist's administrative assistant for 75 pounds (\$28) a month and he has a second job as a taxi driver that brings in another 100 pounds (\$37) a month.

The softly-spoken man in shirt-sleeves is one of

Egypt's estimated five to six million low-paid government workers.

As white-collar workers imbued with a tradition of public service, few belong to a trade union, professional syndicate or political party. Strikes are at any rate illegal in Egypt.

Urban and educated, many of Abu Mohammed's friends and colleagues are barely keeping their heads above water. Increasingly mired in genteel poverty, they try to keep up appearances.

Government pay has failed to keep up with price rises. Inflation is officially estimated to be running at 26 per cent. In the last annual review, Abu Mohammed's meagre salary was increased by five pounds (\$2) a month.

Until six or seven years ago, Abu Mohammed

told Reuters, he felt comfortable and respected within the community.

He was able to save a little each month, and his status was enhanced by occasional donations to charitable causes.

It has been a downhill slide ever since, exacerbated in recent months by a series of steep price rises.

"When my three children need clothes, then we cut back on the food. And in a crisis I borrow money from a rich relative. If we need cash quickly, I work all night at the wheel."

"I've got an education. I can always get an extra job as a pencil-pusher and the taxi gives me flexibility."

Egypt, dubbed by foreign economists the world's richest bankrupt country, is trying to throw off the

last vestiges of a socialist economy.

It has vowed to revitalise a stagnant economy heavily dependent on an inefficient state sector by adopting reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

If Cairo wins IMF approval, some of its estimated \$50 billion foreign debt will be rescheduled and Western banks should provide new credits for urgently needed development.

As it edges cautiously towards a market economy, the government has embarked on a series of unannounced increases in the price of electricity, petrol, gas and basic foodstuffs.

Mindful of the twin dangers of public discontent and political unrest, it has implemented them gradually.

Bahraini pilgrims escape death

BAHRAIN, July 6. (Reuters): Injured Bahrainis returning from the Muslim Haj described today how their pilgrimage turned into a nightmare as they watched wives and friends trampled to death in a tunnel stampede near Makkah.

Pilgrims Mustapha Al Sayed and Abdul Hussein Jassim Ahmed said they were trapped in the Al Moussem tunnel leading to the holy sites in Saudi Arabia for several hours on Monday as people climbed over each other in a frantic bid to escape.

"I saw people being trampled to death. I was up to my chest in bodies," Ahmed, 29, told reporters from a stretcher in hospital.

"You couldn't stand, you couldn't walk, you couldn't jump. You could only fall down gradually until people killed you," Said, 34, who works for Grindlay's Bank in Bahrain said.

Sayed said he did not know whether his wife Fatima, who was with him in the tunnel, was dead or alive.

"My wife was beneath me and I was trying to help her but in the end she was unconscious with blood streaming from her nose. I don't want to think about her fate," he said.

"People were pushing in all directions but if you were lucky and if no one stood on your head, you could breathe."

"I thought we were finished. I told my wife this is the last day for you and me. We should say our prayers," said Sayed, who has leg injuries and breathing problems.

Sayed and Ahmed — among six injured Bahrainis flown home today — said the congestion was aggravated by a barricade at the exit of the 600-metre-long tunnel.

"We were on our way to throw the stones — we were close to the finish — but when we got to the exit it was blocked with a fence," Ahmed said.

"The people stopped. They could not go forward. They could not go back because there were people coming behind them."

"It was so hot — you could not breathe. People wanted to go out immediately and those who could jumped on the heads of others to escape," Ahmed said.

Sayed said police at the barricade apparently wanted the pilgrims to return the way they had come but this was impossible.

He said he was rescued after being trapped for three-and-a-half hours by two Bahrainis who pulled him to safety back through the tunnel to a waiting ambulance.

Bahrain health authorities said today five Bahrainis, two men and three women, had died in the tragedy but the toll could rise to 25 as others were still missing.

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Kuwaiti pilgrims greeting their children upon arrival.

Co-operation of Saudi authorities praised

Kuwaiti pilgrims recount tale of disaster

KUWAIT International Airport witnessed an influx of Kuwaiti and Saudi flights, Thursday. These flights brought in hajjis returning to the country from the holy lands after performing haj.

A local daily interviewed a number of hajjis to obtain an overview of the Mo'essem Tunnel tragedy which caused the death of 1,426 hajjis and resulted in the injury to several others with substantial material losses.

Hajji Mhanna Al Sultan said that the Mo'essem Tunnel tragedy was mainly caused by the large number of hajjis within the tunnel. However, he ruled out any possibility that the tragedy was a deliberate act and praised the level of services presented by the Saudi authorities inside Makkah.

Act of God

Hajji Zainab Mustafa stated that the Mo'essem accident was an act of God, adding that the Saudi authorities had provided hajjis, injured in the accident, with every possible assistance. She said that rumours that the accident was a terrorist act and the fire incident which occurred the previous night was a deliberate act, were baseless and were propaganda by people.

Hajji Khalid Khaleel Al Awadhi said that the accident was caused through a

chain of unfortunate incidents, primarily panic inside the tunnel which led to several people being trampled in the stampede of the entry and exits of the tunnel. Specifically, he said that the break down in the ventilation system, led to soaring temperatures and lack of fresh air led to panic among the hajjis.

Hajji Ali Shamlan indicated that he has no concrete evidence to pinpoint the cause of the tragedy, but indicated that it was due to a combination of factors such as overcrowding, a drop in the ventilation systems, excessive heat and massive confusion and frenzy to make for the exits collectively.

Hajji Fadhil Sultan stated that the Mo'essem Tunnel was built originally for pedestrians and said that most of the victims were of Asian nationality. After the electrical failure, it was impossible to see inside or to breathe, causing hysteria.

Pedestrians

He added that the main cause of the accident was due to the fact that many hajjis did not comply with safety directives issued by the Saudi authorities.

Meanwhile, a number of Kuwaiti hajjis who were standing in close proximity to the location of the Mo'essem Tunnel at the time of the tragedy reported that they saw

stark fear leading to confusion and terror on the faces of hajjis during the accident.

A number of hajjis returning back from the holy lands at around 4:00 am at Kuwait International Airport stated that they saw hajji pedestrians on the bridge binding each other with ibras costumes in a bid to save them from falling and being crushed under the feet of the surging crowd.

Other hajjis who were received by relatives at the airport stressed that the tragedy was an act of God adding that due to the heavy traffic of hajjis inside and outside the tunnel, a number of individuals fell down from the pedestrian bridge above the tunnel which caused confusion and stampede among hajjis.

An old hajji pointed out that among the victims of the tragedy there were a total of nine Kuwaitis who were injured — all of whom were promptly transferred to the headquarters of the Kuwaiti medical delegation, where their injuries were treated. All are reported to be in good condition.

Hajji Um Saad pointed out that most Kuwaiti hajj caravans were not near the Mo'essem Tunnel at the time of the accident, and so many Kuwaiti hajjis had no idea about the incident. She added that she got to know of the accident after the Saudi interior minister made the events known.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim Al Mansour, Kuwaiti ambassador in Saudi Arabia said that the Kuwaiti hajj caravans began leaving the kingdom after performing their haj rituals.

In a telephone interview with a local daily, he added that all Kuwaiti hajjis were reported in good health. However, he added that one Kuwaiti hajji identified as Mohammed Mesfer Al Ajmi is still to be accounted for.

He added that special contacts were made with concerned Saudi authorities and with other Islamic delegations and caravans in the kingdom to ascertain his whereabouts and condition. He indicated that authorities have not yet received any information in this respect and expressed hope that the matter will become more clear within the coming few hours.

The ambassador praised the co-operation of Saudi authorities with the Kuwaiti medical delegation and other delegations. He stated that such co-operation have facilitated many tasks towards determining the whereabouts of hajjis after the tragedy.

Ibrahim added that many casualties, injuries and cases of suffocation were reported and treated at various Islamic medical delegations. Saudi authorities had also provided maximum medical services to all hajjis after the accident.

Haj

pilgrims were completing the annual ritual of the Haj near Islam's holiest shrines. Many of the victims had no identification papers, according to Saudi officials.

More than 1,000 pilgrims from Indonesia and Turkey were among the 1,426 crushed to death, according to reports reaching their homelands.

Many of the 447 Turkish victims have been buried nameless, their nationality evident from tiny flags pinned to their collars. Turkey's ambassador in Saudi Arabia told Istanbul television yesterday.

Indonesia has also asked Saudi Arabia to bury its 562 dead.

Figures so far showed that at least two-thirds of the dead came from non-Arab countries, which could indicate that language problems contributed to the tragedy.

Indonesia's Co-ordinating Minister for Social Welfare Suparjo Rustam told reporters that at least 562 Indonesians were among the dead. Indonesia declared Friday a day of mourning.

Turkish diplomats in Makkah said the Turkish dead numbered at least 447 and only 163 of them were identified.

Pictures were taken of some of the Turkish victims before burial, but not all. "We may never be able to identify many of them," said ambassador Yasar Yakis.

Many pilgrims move through the Haj rituals in large national groups, which would explain why most victims came from a few countries.

A health official in Bahrain said three Bahraini men and two women were known to have died but 25 other Bahraini pilgrims were missing.

Malaysia said today 132 Malaysian pilgrims were killed in the tunnel stampede.

An Australian, whose trip was arranged by Malaysia, was also killed, the official Bernama news agency said.

In the Bangladesh capital, Dhaka, the official BSS news

MANAMA, (AP): The 1,426 Muslim pilgrims who were crushed or suffocated to death in a pedestrian tunnel were hurrying to perform the ritual of "stoning the devil," the climax of the annual Makkah pilgrimage.

Many were running to their deaths. What was supposed to be a joyful celebration by 2 million Muslims from around the world suddenly became the worst pilgrimage tragedy in modern history.

Saudi Arabian officials said 1,426 pilgrims perished in Monday's catastrophe when thousands of people were trapped in the 600-metre-long (yard) tunnel in a stampede, hundreds more were injured.

The month-long pilgrimage, which every Muslim is supposed to make at least once, was ending and religious fervor was high.

It was the first day of the three-day Eid Al Adha, or the feast of sacrifice, that marks the Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to God. Three piles of stones represent the three devils who tried to tempt Abraham away from sacrificing his son as a demonstration of his faith.

The hajjis — men dressed in seamless white ceremonial robes and women in specially tailored clothes covering them from head to ankle — were eager to get to the stone-throwing site in a bowl-shaped valley hemmed in by rocky, scrub-studded hills.

The tunnel — 10 metres (33 feet) wide and 8 metres (26 feet) high — is carved out of the Mo'essem mountain. It funnels pilgrims to the stoning arena, called Gamarat Aqabah, from the tent city, where they camp for the month.

The camp is just outside Makkah, birthplace of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and Islam's holiest shrine. It was 10 am when disaster struck.

Thousands of hajjis who had already stoned the devil were returning from Gamarat Aqabah over a looping pedestrian bridge, from which they

agency said seven Bangladeshis, including a woman, were killed in the disaster.

Malaysian officials said about 37,000 Malaysian pilgrims were in Saudi Arabia to perform the Haj this year. They said they feared the death toll would rise

once Saudi authorities finished identifying those killed.

About 10,000 faithful from Bangladesh, the world's third largest Muslim country, made the pilgrimage this year.

Egyptian officials reversed earlier statements and said three

the seminar was noted tax expert H. P. Ranina. He spelled out various steps that the government could take to boost NRI investment in India.

The seminar today urged the Indian government to streamline procedures for the NRIs investment and free flow of technology to pave way for massive economic and industrial development of the country.

Among others who spoke at



Worried Indonesians scan list of victims of Saudi Arabia's tunnel disaster. (Reuters wirephoto)

had cast their pebbles, heading for the tunnel entrance.

The railing on the bridge collapsed under the pressure of the human tide. Seven pilgrims tumbled eight metres (26 feet) off the bridge into the crowd of people coming outside the tunnel.

The bodies crashing into the throng touched off panic. Only those at the entrance of the tunnel knew what had happened.

Behind them, pilgrims continued to move into the tunnel. Soon, the tunnel which has a capacity of 1,000 people was jammed with what authorities later estimated at 50,000 pushing, shoving pilgrims.

Pilgrims heading for Gamarat Aqabah were unaware of what had happened and kept thrusting forward. Soon those trapped inside the tunnel began screaming and people became terrified.

Soon after the incident at the mouth of the tunnel, there was an unexplained power outage. The lights went out and

the ventilation system hummed to a halt.

People began to faint, particularly the elderly, in the suffocating congestion. Men and women tried to claw their way out in the darkness, trampling over the fallen.

It was the same outside. "No one could go forward or back ... people were falling on each other ... the bodies piling on each other ... there was a mad rush and screaming," an aide to the Interior Minister, Prince Nayef, said on Saudi television.

One survivor said: "It was terrible. People were rushing in opposite directions. When one stumbled, scores trampled him ... and hundreds fell on top of them in no time."

A Lebanese survivor sobbed: "I was pushed and fell over about 20 corpses. Others were still pushing in two directions and walking on top of me. May God forgive me for trampling on the others."

Egyptians were found among the dead.

Health Minister Mohammed Ragheb Doweidar, who had said there were no Egyptian casualties, said that on close examination of the dead and of documents in Saudi Arabia,

three Egyptians were found to have been killed.

Meanwhile, pilgrims packed Jeddah airport to leave Saudi Arabia following the tunnel disaster.

The Cairo newspaper Al Massa quoted returning Egyptians as saying pilgrims packed Jeddah airport to return home.

El Siyyad Hassan, an engineer, said the pilgrims were scared by the tunnel incident and "we decided to return home ahead of schedule because our families were worried about us and we could not get in touch with them."

Most of the victims are likely to be buried at the holy sites, diplomatic sources in Saudi Arabia said yesterday.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said families and friends who lost people in the disaster were expected to prefer the Makkah burials for religious reasons.

The victims would continue to be called "martyrs," as King Fahd has described them, because they died at the holy sites.

In accordance with the strict Wahhabi school of the Sunni sect of Islam to which Saudi Arabia adheres, the bodies would be buried with no markings.

The sources said that the bodies would be lined up side by side in a mass area or grave in the region that the Saudi Arabian authorities would designate.

Three days after the tragedy, the sources believed almost all the bodies were still lying in morgues.

Some had been clearly identified but the majority were without documents because it is sinful for pilgrims to wear worldly items that could have helped identify them.

An official identification process began today with the help of officials who accompany each pilgrimage contingent from its country, or diplomatic missions in case of pilgrims or workers from the large expatriate community within the kingdom, according to the sources.

(Continued from Page 1)

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Action Line

I AM extremely concerned about my telephone bill. I think I have been overcharged and would like to have it checked. Could you tell me how to go about the matter?

L.A.
YOU must approach the nearest telephone exchange. For example, if you live in Salmiya, you approach the Salmiya Telephone Exchange and contact the officers there. Explain your predicament, and show them the previous bills which have been paid for you. It takes about a month to scrutinise the overcharge invoice. After scrutiny, the Ministry of Communications informs the subscriber of the error, if any, and makes amends accordingly.

I AM new in Kuwait. Having just arrived in the country, I don't know where to buy many things, like plants etc. Although I would like to buy fresh plants, I believe it would be a good idea to purchase artificial plants. Could you tell me where I can get the best quality at reasonable prices.

D.H.
OFTEN, some artificial plants look real. A large variety are sold at the co-operatives and smaller shops in Salmiya, near the Fire Brigade. Prices differ, so does quality. Prices range from 250 fils to KD36 or more depending on the plant, its size etc. A wide selection of artificial plants are available from the Awqaf Complex, Sharq, at reasonable prices.

ARE emergency services available at Kuwaiti hospitals? I would like also to know if I can go to a hospital for treatment of minor ailments?

K. Shama
EMERGENCY services are available at all the major hospitals in and around Kuwait. A patient reports to the casualty department in case of an accidental injury. Patients who suspect a heart attack can also go to the casualty department of hospitals.

Minor ailments like cough, colds, fever or backpain etc. can be done at the clinics. Each area has a clinic which offers treatment to men, women and children. If the doctors in the clinic feel that a patient requires specialist treatment, they will refer the patient to a hospital.

COULD you give me the name and address of a "good" mechanic? I seem to have car trouble almost all the time and I feel that I cannot cope with it any longer. I have tried many mechanics but nothing seems to work.

THE best way to maintain your car is to take it to the manufacturer's agency workshop. Although you are guaranteed good service, you pay through your nose repairs done at such workshops.

There are several garages in the Shuwaikh area; in Sharq, Jleeb Al Shiyukh and Fahheel areas. It's impossible to give the name of "one good mechanic." You'll have to find one by trial and error.

I OWN a cat. I've looked everywhere but can't find a veterinarian to take care of my pet. I am panicking. Please advise.

S.N.
PUBLIC vet. clinics exist in Hawalli, near Al Andalus Cinema; in Farwaniya, near the co-operative society; and in Shuwaikh, on the Ghazali Street. These clinics provide care for cats, dogs, birds, monkeys and sheep. However, these clinics do not provide specialist treatment like cataract operations, teeth scaling etc.

The government recently approved the opening of private veterinarian clinics. These are expected to be set up by the end of 1991.

WHICH is the best place to buy gold?

K.J.
DO you want to invest in gold or buy gold ornaments? If you want to buy gold ornaments, Kuwait has one of the most extensive selection of ornaments which are manufactured in Bahrain, Italy, India and in Kuwait. Designer jewellery from Italy, which is machine-made, comes in 18 K gold, and comes in intricate shapes. This is available in gold shops located in Mubarakiya, and Salmiya gold souks.

Indian hand-made jewellery is also available, and is much in demand. This can be found in several shops located in the Souk Al Watia, behind the Sheraton Hotel, and in Souk Al Kabir.

Orders can also be placed. Generally, it takes between two weeks and one month to get delivery.

If you have a problem drop in a line in Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to us on Tel: 4847495.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decomposed body found: The decomposed body of an 80-year-old citizen was found at his residence, a local daily reported.

The daily said that neighbours of the deceased had reported to the police that the man who was living alone had not been seen for quite some time.

The body was referred for post mortem which indicated that the man had passed away about a week ago. Death was due to natural causes, the report said.

Kuwaiti commits suicide: A 41-year-old Kuwaiti man committed suicide at his residence in Riqqa on the first day of Eid Al Adha.

The man's family had gone visiting relatives in the Sulaibiya area and on returning home, found him dead with a rope tied round his neck.

Sources said that the man had committed suicide as he was plagued with financial debts to several companies and individuals. He is survived by five sons and daughters.

Poisoning victims discharged: All victims of the food-poisoning cases reported at Mina Al Abdullah during the Eid holidays have been treated and discharged from Almadhi hospital.

Dr Abdul Wahad Al Fouzan, the minister of public health said that none of the victims were seriously affected. He disclosed that about 30 Chinese workers were poisoned after consuming spilt food at a restaurant in the Mina Abdullah port. Twenty-six were admitted to the Almadhi hospital last Tuesday and four others were admitted the next day.

Alcohol smuggler gets 18 months: The Criminal Court sentenced a man to 18 months rigorous imprisonment for smuggling alcohol in his boat.

The court was told that the defendant had brought 928 bottles of whiskey from a ship anchored in regional waters. He anchored his boat in an isolated area and called two of his friends to guard his boat while he went to bring his car to transport the whiskey.

Detectives who suspected the bonafides of the boat, investigated and after locating the whiskey arrested the two defendants who claimed that they were unaware of the contents and were only guarding the boat on the instructions of the owner.

The accused was subsequently arrested and admitted to the smuggling charges.

(Continued from Page 1)

would take all necessary steps to remove bottlenecks to encourage NRIs in investing in various sectors.

Abhay K. Mehta, chairman of the seminar, stated that NRI could make significant contribution in development process.

The seminar yesterday urged the Indian federal government to open up real estate core and agriculture sectors for investment by them.

The government needs investment in these sectors but rules and regulations of the government are creating impediments for the NRIs to take active role in developmental programme of their country, Mehta said.

Mehta said while NRIs are away from India they are as good Indians as anyone else.

NRI

lement and education facilities. The ambassador said Indian schools did exist in different countries of the Gulf, but university education was near impossible to secure, especially for professional courses. A proposal to set up a special university, colleges and schools for NRIs in India had been discussed for several years now, he said.

According to him, the time had

come to concretise the proposal. This was one way of ensuring that children of NRIs maintained cultural links with India, he underlined.

In his chairman's speech, R. Nireshwalia highlighted some of the constraints being faced by NRIs, particularly those who had migrated to the Gulf countries.

T. N. Pandey, chairman of the

Civil ID should be all purpose: Bunashi

Fine for discrepancy in address

A DIRECTOR of the Public Authority for Civil Information (Paci) at the Ministries Complex, Anwar Bunashi, was quoted as saying that the civil identity card should be deemed an all-purpose card.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the mail service had proved effective for civil identity card transactions and had curtailed the number of visitors to the offices of the authority by 80 per cent.

Meanwhile, the official commented that Paci's office at the ministries complex had been set up to facilitate the large number of people which caused crowds in other offices of the authority. He clarified that the office at the ministries complex serves about 9000 employees. He further elucidated that the offices had received since its establishment about 5296 transactions with about 44 transactions daily. He clarified that this figure was more than expected, since there are

only three employees and each of them received about 12 transactions daily. He pointed out that if another three employees were recruited, the office would be in a position to receive about 50 transactions daily.

Warning

Meanwhile, the official said that the office had prepared about 430 civil identity cards to be produced for the first time and had carried about 3,500 transactions concerning change of address and had

undertaken the distribution of about 2,100 cards.

The official drew the attention of expatriates to the fact that they have to communicate with the authority one month after obtaining the residence. Some people are under the impression that it is two months. Applicants will be subject to the stipulated fine if they delay their applications, Bunashi said.

He added that his office is ready to receive transactions to be submitted for

the first time, the transactions pertaining to the address change, family transactions followed by residence renewal. He warned that any discrepancy in address details will subject the violator to a fine.

With regard to the pictures to be used on the civil identity card, the official said a picture for people over 11 years old is compulsory, but optional for children between 6-10 years. Children under six years old will be exempted from the picture.

New sea link Kuwait, Iran to boost ties

KUWAIT, July 6. (Opecna): Iran and Kuwait reopened their sea link Tuesday after a breach of nine years with the arrival in the Kuwaiti port of Shuwaikh of the Iranian passenger ship "Iran Hormoz 24" from the port city of Bushehr.

Ahmad Makhmal, managing director of the Iranian Valfajr-8 Shipping Company, who was on board the vessel, stressed: "The resumption of the sea link between Iranian and Kuwaiti ports is in line with the consolidation of political and economic ties between the two countries."

All sea links between Iran and Kuwait came to a halt because of the outbreak of the Gulf war in 1980.

Makhmal said that the resumption of the Kuwait-Bushehr sea line, the price of passenger tickets as well as transportation costs of goods from Iran, would be considerably reduced.

Ahmad Dashedi, director-general of the joint Iran-Kuwait Shipping Company, said the resumption of the Kuwait-Bushehr sea line "will open a new chapter in sea links between the two countries."

Manama, Beijing to sign trade agreement

BEIJING, July 6. (Kuna): Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa arrived here yesterday on an official visit to China, for the first time since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in April 1989.

In a statement on arrival, Sheikh Mohammed said that his visit here has come "to deepen and develop relations between Bahrain and China."

He expressed hope that the visit would result in "developing and strengthening relations and opening of horizons of co-operation in economic and other sectors."

He added in his statement carried by the New China News Agency (Xinhua) that an economic agreement between the two countries would be concluded during his visit and hoped that this would represent a turning point in the development of co-operation between the two countries.

Sheikh Mohammed affirmed that direct talks between Iraq and Iran will mark a positive step toward peace in the Gulf region.

Following talks with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen, Sheikh Mohammed said that China, one of the Security Council permanent members, had made many contributions toward establishing peace between Iraq and Iran.

On the Middle East, the Bahraini minister said that the Jewish-Palestinian dialogue and the US-PLO dialogue form obstacles before a solution to the Mideast crisis.

He also welcomed détente in east-west relations, hoping that this improvement in ties between the great powers would help end tension in many of the world's hotbeds.

For his part, Qichen hoped that the ceasefire between Tehran and Baghdad would turn into lasting peace.

He accused the Israeli government of escalating tension in the middle East by adopting negative policies.

The Chinese foreign minister urged developing nations to strengthen co-operation among them to confront the monopoly of the developed countries over the world's economy and politics.

Arabs urged to unify

KUWAIT, July 6. (Kuna): A local daily yesterday urged the Arabs to forge unity and solidarity to confront conspiracies being plotted against them.

The daily cited examples of reunification of the two Germanys and similar efforts in the Far East between the two Koreas while the Arabs were still far from such unity.

It said the Arabs, despite dangers from various areas, could not yet agree on a historic step such as the Yemenis took.

The paper underlined that as long as the Arab remained disintegrated, they will not receive any world attention.

Meanwhile Director of the Middle East Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Vladimir Polyakov, has stressed that the Middle East region still enjoys the attention of the Soviet Union.

In an interview with Kuwait Television broadcast here yesterday Polyakov said that the Soviet Union is working to strengthen its relations with the Arab world, indicating that his country is seeking a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He reiterated his country's support to the right of self-determination to the Palestinian people noting that an international peace conference on the Middle East is the best way to resolve the Middle East problem.

On the emigration of Soviet Jews and their rehabilitation in the occupied territories, Polyakov said the Soviet Union rejects the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories noting that Moscow's stand on this issue is firm.

From the courts

Two get 28 months RI, deportation for forgery

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man and his cousin to 28 months rigorous imprisonment and a bail of KD100 each on the charge of forgery. The court also ordered their deportation after the end of their jail sentence.

The court heard that the two defendants were not allowed to leave their country because they were on call for military service. The first took the passport of another cousin who was exempted from service and put his photo instead of the cousin's photo. He left his country and entered Kuwait with his forged passport. He also worked in a company for a short period before being exposed. The other defendant forged his cousin's name in his passport and entered Kuwait to work with his cousin. The CID men received a report against the two defendants who inspected their residence and found letters from their relatives carrying their real names. Two witnesses living with defendants also revealed the real names of defendants. The defendants admitted to the charge.

Alcohol trader acquitted: The Court of First Instance acquitted a man accused of trading in alcohol due to lack of conclusive evidence.

The court was told that the defendant was caught red-handed when he was striking a deal with a police informant to sell some whiskey.

However, the defendant was deported while the prosecutor was reviewing the case.

The court based its decision of acquittal as the whiskey was not seen or analysed by the medical examiner. It had been destroyed with other contraband by the authorities.

Four sentenced for assault: The Criminal Court sentenced four convicts to different imprisonment terms over a vehicle dispute.

The court sentenced the first convict to three months imprisonment, the second and third to three months and the fourth to six months imprisonment with KD100 bail.

suspended sentence followed by deportation and the fourth convict was ordered to pay a KD50 fine.

The first three convicts inflicted deliberate injuries to the fourth convict causing him to lose sight in his left eye and 45 per cent disability.

The fourth convict told the court that while driving his vehicle recklessly in one of the neighbourhoods, the first three convicts stopped him and inflicted injuries upon him.

Motorcycle thieves imprisoned: The Higher Appeal Court sentenced two males to one and a half years imprisonment followed by deportation from the country.

The two convicts were charged with stealing a motorcycle by breaking its locking device.

12 years for theft and forgery: The Criminal Court sentenced a man to 12 years imprisonment on several charges.

A woman driver who bought a car from the convict decided to return the car after testing it for some days. Upon going back to the traffic vehicle registration department, officials there found that the vehicle was never registered in their computers. Upon further investigations, securitymen revealed that the vehicle book given to the lady by the convict was fake containing fake stamps and signatures.

The court was told that the convict was arrested at his house in possession of official documents and stamps which he had obtained while working at the vehicles registration department at the General Traffic Department before his resignation.

The court charged the convict with four charges, namely embezzlement of official papers and documents while being a government employee at the vehicle registration department, forgery of official certificates to transfer the ownership of a vehicle, forgery of vehicle books, obtaining the stamp of one of the government authorities at the Higher Traffic Department.

Oil

barrels daily but quota busting took actual volume in June to 23.2 million, the West's International Energy Agency said yesterday.

Some senior ministers have long said privately they have almost despaired of the UAE, attributing its maverick behaviour to motives of inter-Arab prestige.

They feel the real key to restoring Opec credibility is for the market to see Kuwait as following Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, in restraining output to protect the \$18 price.

Ghannar said: "I think we have a better chance now. The remaining problem is the UAE."

Ghannar would not comment specifically on this but did say that Opec, like the market, was "exasperated" when some members did not stick to production agreements.

Opec delegation sources earlier said the United Arab Emirates was apparently still insisting on getting a quota of two million barrels per day — a third as much again as Opec has hitherto been willing to concede to it.

Al Ameer today visited the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation office in London to meet with its



Al Ameer

officials. An official source of the corporation told Kuna that the officials at the office briefed Ameer on the latest activities of the corporation here.

They also informed him about the activities of the Kuwait Petroleum International Company, an affiliate to KPC, in the field of petroleum refining, transportation and marketing, in addition to fuelling aircraft at international airports.

The Kuwait Petroleum International's activities cover Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands,

Belgium, Luxembourg, UK and Italy.

Ameer had talks with the corporation officials on the future plans of the Kuwait Petroleum International, the source said.

The Kuwaiti minister has arrived here last night from Algeria concluding a one-day official visit, the source added.

World crude oil supplies fell by 600,000 b/d to 53.7 million b/d last month, a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) has disclosed here.

It pointed out that the decline was due to lower production by member countries of Opec and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Opec production, it said, stood at 23.2 million b/d in June a decline of 350,000 b/d from May.

United States output fell by 200,000 b/d to 8.6 million b/d. North Sea production slipped by 100,000 b/d to 3.9 million b/d, while Canadian output stood at two million b/d, an increase of 100,000 b/d, it said.

State to preserve minors' rights

Funds invested wisely

THE ex-director, general of Kuwait's Public Authority for Minors Affairs Hmoud Al Mudhayan was quoted as saying that the authority has adopted the appropriate measures to preserve minors' rights.

In an interview with a local daily, Mudhayan said that the patronage of orphans included the provision of material requirements, behaviour and education in addition to the preservation of the minors' funds and properties.

He confirmed in this context that the funds of orphans should be invested in

accordance with the Islamic religion and away from speculation. He added that the authority should pay more attention to orphan funds and should strive in this respect to realise high yield. He added that the authority should from time to time review investments and should strive to reduce risks.

Mudhayan added that the investment portfolio of orphans consists of real estates, shares, and deposits and should be evaluated regularly in the light of developments in the market.

He recalled that when he was in office,

authority officials had found that local investment opportunities were the best vehicle.

He said that officials at the authority were in agreement that the Islamic method was the best way for investing minors' funds.

Replying to a question, the official said that he personally believed that interest received from banks cannot be classified as usury as it was not too big and because it benefits orphans.

Speaking of the distribution of minors' funds, the official said that these funds

should be distributed under the supervision of the authority.

He added that minors' funds should be audited by licensed auditing bureaus and statements clarifying the accounts movements should be submitted to orphans when they become adults.

Meanwhile, the official said that there was co-operation between the authority and the Credit and Saving Bank in extending loans to minor. He pointed out that any loan to be extended by the bank to minors should be made through the authority in its capacity as custodian of minors.

He said that the authority faces various complaints from Kuwaiti tourists every year. On top of the list is theft.

New private schools prohibited

Traditions to be preserved

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Education has prohibited the opening of any new private foreign schools or any branches of existing schools.

Issuing this statement, the assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for private education, Dr Yacoub Al Sharrab commented that foreign education prevailed in the country due to the existence of foreign communities and the authorities had permitted the establishment of these private schools with the provision that they apply curriculums of their own countries.

The aim of prohibiting the establishment of new private foreign schools is to abide by recommendations approved by education ministers of the GCC states to preserve Arabic traditions and values of the region.

The official said that all private schools and institutes are subjected to supervision of the Ministry of Education and the former have to submit their budgets and closing accounts ratified by the legal auditing offices in the country.

The ratified accounts and budgets testify to the financial capabilities of these educational institutions and reduces the financial burden of the ministry when disputes are referred to courts by staff members or other forms of litigation, the official said.

Jordanian youth stabs another

A JORDANIAN youth identified as Adel A is alleged to have stabbed another Jordanian with a knife causing him serious injuries. The victim has been admitted to the intensive care

unit at Mubarak Al Kabeer Hospital.

According to sources, a dispute had previously taken place between the youth and the victim at Hawalli.

Tourists should follow rules: envoy

KUWAIT'S Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ghazi Al Rayes has said that the embassy has specific official duties and shouldn't really be involved with tourists' problems.

He added that the embassy presents several services to citizens like any other embassy anywhere in the world. Such services only include consular affairs like renewal of passports, additions to passports, attestation of official documents and certificates and issuing a return document to Kuwait for lost passports. He pointed out that in general these services are presented to all citizens.

Other services introduced by the embassy include educational and cultural services carried out by the cultural attaché.

He stated that the embassy welcomes Kuwaiti tourists who spend the summer in Britain but he pointed out that tourists must take extra caution against problems which may inconvenience them during their vacations.

He also said it is important that tourists should comply with directives by the embassy.

Rayes added that one of the new matters which tourists should pay attention to is the tax law in connection with flats and houses. He pointed out that a special poll tax is now required for residents. The tax is calculated on the number of residents living in a house or a flat. He said that in order to make it easy on owners of houses in Britain, these taxes are less than the previous charges and does not include individuals less than 18 years old. He added that for Kuwaitis who only come to Britain for the summer this tax does not exceed £200. There are no additional taxes but those who extend their stay in Britain for more than 6 months per year will have to pay extra.

He said that the embassy faces various complaints from Kuwaiti tourists every year. On top of the list is theft.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cables

KUWAIT, July 6. (Kuna): HH the Amir has sent a cable of congratulations to the president of the Comoro Islands on the occasion of his country's national day.

HH also sent a cable of congratulations to Algerian President Chadli Ben Jedd on the occasion of his country's independence anniversary.

HH sent similar congratulatory cables to presidents of Venezuela, Rwanda and Cape Verde on the occasion of their countries' national day.

Premier receives

LONDON, July 6. (Kuna): HH Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah received at his residence here last night British State Minister for Foreign Affairs William Waldegrave who conveyed to His Highness a message from UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Sheikh Saad later last night received Interior Minister David Mellor. Both meetings were attended by Kuwaiti ambassador to London Ghazi Al Rayes.

Zoo visits

OVER 2,000 people visited Omariya Zoo on the first day of Eid Al Adha. However, the number visiting the zoo during the first day of Eid Al Fitr was 10,000 people.

An official at the zoo said that many new animals from African countries have been brought to the zoo recently and said that about 7,000 people visited the zoo during the holidays.

Culture programmes

MINISTRY of Social Affairs and Labour in co-operation with Kuwait Trade Federation has carried out about 13 labour culture programmes which were attended by 416 students, a local daily quoted an official source at the ministry as saying.

It added that industrial relations and union organisations department at the ministry was honoured that the annual aid which had been allocated for trade federations during the fiscal year 1988/1989 had amounted to KD247,000.

Meanwhile, sources said that each union organisation in the country received an Amiri grant of KD5,000 which had been allocated for the performance of Haj by members of the organisations.

Paaet registrations

THE dean of students and trainees affairs at Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) Hisham Al Mutawa was quoted as saying that registrations for the first term of next academic year will begin on Sept 25th.

He added that students who would like to join any of the authority's colleges should communicate with the registration office from 4:00pm to 8:00pm.

He added that the registration door will be open for Kuwaitis and expatriate students but only 15 per cent of the admitted students will be of the nationalities.

Allergy list

OF all the people in Kuwait at least 12 per cent suffer allergies according to the allergy consultant Dr Khudhaier Al Kazmi.

He told a seminar held recently, that the allergy centre has received about 60,000 cases in 1989. He added that the previous year (1988) had witnessed mostly the same. He clarified that stress alone worsened cases of asthma and those suffering from other kinds of allergies.

He added that bad relations between parents negatively affects their children and may cause psychosomatic allergies.

One teacher for every 13 pupils in Kuwaiti schools: study

ABOUT 369,660 students were enrolled in Kuwaiti schools and about 37,834 teachers imparted education in about 11,524 classes during the last academic year according to a recent statistical study.

The study said that on an average there was one teacher for every 13 students. A total of

35,078 children were enrolled in the kindergarten section, split up into 17,658 boys and 17,420 girls.

Students in the primary stage accounted for 118,120 with a breakdown of 59,738 boys and 58,382 girls in addition to about 120,770 students in the intermediate stage with 62,080 boys and 58,690 girls and about

95,692 in the secondary stage with 49,387 boys and 46,305 girls.

Meanwhile the study indicated that 9,152 teachers were accredited to the secondary stage which constitutes the largest number of teachers working in any of the given four educational stages i.e. kindergarten, primary,

intermediate and secondary. The lowest number of teaching professions were recorded in the kindergarten stage with a total of 2,289 teachers.

On the other hand, the study said that the primary stage had got the lion's share with about 3,764 classes followed by the intermediate with about 3,729

classes while the biggest average for students in each class was in the secondary stage with 34 students in each class.

Apart from the above, the study said that there were about 863 students in the religious institutes and about 1,930 in the special institutes with about 247 classes and 597 teachers for both.

Meanwhile, the study disclosed that Kuwaiti students in government schools amounted to about 203,411 in all school education stages with about 67,328 in the primary stage and about 42,938 in both intermediate and secondary stages.

It added that most Gulf students studying in Kuwait

were from Saudi Arabia.

On the other hand, the study referred that most of the other Arab students were from Jordan with a total of 57,255 students more than half studying in the secondary stage. The study said that all the teachers in the kindergarten stages numbering 1,949 were Kuwaiti females.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NOTHING in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood
— Marie Curie, Polish-born physicist (1867-1934).

OPINION

Chasing the bats: a national duty

THE onset of summer this year, was unlike the past, mainly due to the executive and practical steps recommended to establish firm bases for the development of the new age of Kuwait.

Thus, we are on the threshold of the new Kuwaiti era: running after the 21st century to achieve development and to provide equal opportunities to all citizens without considering family, tribe or area.

It is the dawning of the era of Jaber Al Ahmed and his promise which came true through the popular participation of citizens who were waiting for the order to respond positively to the new life with utter loyalty.

In the era of Jaber Al Ahmed the new generation should shoulder its responsibility to the national work through scientific basis.

Now we resume work that began before Eid Al Adha and we must state that to protect and support the new era, the government will not be able to achieve its great goals, without reforming and developing the performance of its public staff. This mission can be achieved this summer and the dreams and hopes of the Kuwaiti people realised after the Kuwaiti people have elected their representatives in the National Council.

If the new government executes its work through experienced staff who do not have different aims or selfish policies, it will not be in a critical position. The government will be completely free as it goes about "cleaning its staff" — although previous cabinets were not able to achieve this goal.

In many countries of the world, senior officials of the public staff used to resign from their posts on the formation of the new cabinet. This is a normal tradition which aims at achieving fluency in the performance of public duties and ensures that the programmes of the new cabinet will be carried out without any deviation.

Conversely, it is the new cabinet that is the authority that decides whether to accept these resignations or not. We once again would like to reiterate that there are "bats" still living in government caves in the form of government staff. These bats still occupy seats in a number of boards of government companies and establishments.

They won their seats through elections that were dominated by old considerations such as family ties or tribal aspects which contradict the present trends of the state. These boards were formed according to the old family systems and not according to requirements of performance of these companies.

We could readily ask: "What did we get from these boards and what will we get from them if they continue in future? Nothing — compared to the ambitions of the new era."

Many qualified youths were left out of these boards due to the ill-influence of these bats. It is a tragedy — hopefully bypassed with the approach of the new era. We would not want to see this tragedy transferred to a bigger tragedy in the future.

We should hasten to reconsider the bonafides of the boards and officials of the government companies and establishments. We should investigate the circumstances that led these bats to their posts. The aim is to achieve fluency in economic performance of these companies and ensure good returns.

The bats that we spoke about before do not exist in the public sector only, but also on boards of large companies which serve old interests — these were isolated by the Kuwaiti people on the day of elections of the National Council.

By this, we do not mean all companies, because there are legal boards which perform their full duties in a successful manner. We speak of boards, where some members come only to receive their bonuses at the end of the fiscal year.

Membership in these companies is a kind of honour and social status as well as increasing their incomes. These people are considered a heavy burden on companies and government that own shares in these companies. It has become impossible to continue with this situation during the new era.

We should start chasing the bats as of now. As cleaning government staff is a national duty, cleaning of boards of some companies is also a national duty. We should start opening windows for the light because bats can't face light as they like to work in darkness.

Let thousands of qualified nationals take their chances and serve the country. These qualified youths are our "vehicles" to have changes and development. They who responded when political leadership issued the decree to establish the National Council. They took their full rights in elections of the Council and in the new cabinet. But they still await the opportunity to occupy their posts in government staff and in boards of companies.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1585 — France's King Henry III is forced to sign Treaty of Meaux with the Guises, whereby he capitulates to their demands for revoking all toleration of the Huguenots.
- 1647 — Naples revolts against Spain.
- 1718 — Alexis, heir to Russia's Peter the Great, is murdered at instigation of his father.
- 1749 — Spain's Ferdinand VI severs himself from "Family compact" with France.
- 1753 — Act is passed for naturalization of Jews in England.
- 1801 — Toussaint L'Ouverture, black general, proclaims Haiti's independence from France.
- 1815 — Allied forces enter Paris, following Napoleon Bonaparte's abdication.
- 1898 — United States annexes island of Hawaii.
- 1913 — Britain's House of Commons passes Irish Home rule bill.
- 1925 — South Africa's Senate rejects colour-bar bill.
- 1937 — Japanese troops on manoeuvres near Beijing clash with Chinese, marking start of Sino-Japanese war.
- 1960 — Belgium sends troops to the Congo.
- 1973 — Iraq executes 23 people accused of having attempted to overthrow government.
- 1987 — At least 46 Hindus are killed in two attacks on buses within 24 hours in Punjab and Haryana in India by suspected Sikh terrorists.
- 1989 — Thousands of people defy martial law in Burma and rally in memory of citizens killed during military crackdowns.



Gorbachev speaks with delegates during a break at the 28th party congress. (Reuters wirephoto)

Seizure of Communist Party control

Hardliners appear on course

MOSCOW, (Reuters): Hard-line Marxists appear headed to seize control of the Soviet Communist Party at the end of its 28th congress next week.

But both Soviet and foreign analysts say it would almost certainly be a Pyrrhic victory as power and influence over the country's affairs slip ever faster from the party's grasp.

As delegates gathered last weekend for the 10-day forum, a non-communist administration began closing down party cells in Moldavian government offices, in the republic's radio and television stations and in the Ministry of the Interior.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov made clear they would stay in their government posts whether they had the delegates' confidence or not.

At the same time, there has been an increasing drift from the party which still claims some 18 million members, with strong signs that mass defections will follow if the congress fails to endorse radical reform.

Network

"What we are seeing is the end of the party as we knew it — a power network whose leaders at every level were king, policeman and judge," said historian Roy Medvedev.

"It was not party but a nobility which anyone had to join who wanted to make any sort of career," said journalist Andrei Maximov, editor of a young Communist League weekly.

At the congress over the past three days, angry delegates have accused Mikhail Gorbachev and especially his reformist aides of undermining the party's authority among the people.

And while conservatives have insisted they will not move to dump Gorbachev as party chief, they have left little doubt that they aim to surround him with hard-line colleagues.

Medvedev explained the anger of the conservatives.

"Before, the party chief in my Moscow district called the shots on everything. Now not only the mayor ignores him but so does the local public prosecutor, who always did his bidding."

Understand

"He doesn't understand what has happened, where his power went. But he knows who he blames for it and he is furious, and there are tens of thousands like him in the country."

Many radicals on the left of the party are urging Gorbachev to step down from his post as general secretary or even leave the party altogether if the hardliners take control.

But Gorbachev loyalists say he sees no need to do this. "By staying there, he can still exert a moderating influence," said one official of the party's Central Committee.

"And over these past few months he has carefully built up his own alternative power base in the state presidency from which he and his chosen aides can set policy as they see fit, whether the party likes it or not."

"You should no longer assume that the party and the state leadership are the same thing — even if he heads both."

Kremlin maverick Boris Yeltsin clearly takes a similar view. Since his election as Russian federation president in May, he has used its Parliament to

challenge party power.

The Soviet government, whose head is appointed by Gorbachev in his role as president and is subordinate to Parliament and no longer to the party Politburo, is also emerging as an independent — if so far not totally effective — force.

But Moscow journalists who know the provinces well warn that the party leaders there will not cede power without a struggle.

"In thousands of towns and villages, where political awareness is still low, the party chief is still lord and master," said Viktor Loshak, deputy chief editor of the weekly Moscow News.

"These are the forces you see at work at the congress. They can still do a lot of harm. They can still sabotage change."

But reformers in the centre and on the left are confident that life, and the economic crisis caused by old-style command-and-administer management, are working in their favour.

Gorbachev aide Alexander Yakovlev and deputy Premier Leonid Abalkin told the congress the party itself was in danger of ending where communist propagandists often predicted the West was headed — on the rubbish heap of history.

"Only a party renewed, rejuvenated and more to the left can lead the country further down the path of deep change," said Yakovlev, widely regarded as the intellectual architect of Gorbachev's democratisation of Soviet society.

"But this movement cannot be halted. It will go on. With the party or without it... you can defend dogmas for a while. But no one has yet managed to stop history."

Centam forces resist reduction

MEXICO CITY, (Reuters): Central American armies are resisting troop reductions and attempts to loosen their long grip on power despite moves towards peace in a region devastated by a decade of war, officials said.

Washington, in a significant reversal of its policy in the 1980s, is calling for military cuts and disarmament throughout the area and has slashed military aid to pro-US governments. Central American countries have also proposed reductions.

But US and local officials in the region say a number of obstacles, especially powerful officers and their entrenched military structures, stand in the way of change.

"I just do not see these armies withdrawing from their positions of power. If the guerrilla wars stop, they will find some other excuse, whether it is a conflict with a neighbour or the drug war," said one regional diplomat.

A senior US diplomat agreed. "What it is going to

take is a lot of enlightened leadership by both the politicians and the military officers. And, to be honest, there is not a lot of that around."

Critics, however, say Washington is sending mixed messages.

It has said future US aid would be tied to each country's commitment to democracy, development and disarmament but US and Central American sources say the Defence Department is increasing personal contact and training with the region's armies and police forces in anti-drug operations.

The US presence in the past decade has not helped reduce or reform Central American armies, which critics regularly accuse of corruption and human rights abuses.

"In this time (the last decade) we have not managed to improve the military structure. It is the same — or even worse. We did not impose directives. We just gave them money," said the US diplomat.

But there are signs civilian heads of government

are trying to assert their leadership over the military.

Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro, who replaced the left-wing Sandinista government when she won elections last February, said she would have the number of troops in the Sandinista Army after ending the eight-year Contra war in June.

Honduran President Rafael Callejas said he too was committed to discussing disarmament and El Salvador President Alfredo Cristiani announced he would reduce his country's 45,000-strong armed forces if peace talks with leftist rebels ended the conflict there which has left 75,000 dead in 10 years.

Resistance

But the regions' armies have signalled their resistance.

Even as Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo was taking part in a regional summit where military cuts were proposed, his Defence Minister Rafael Humberto Larios told reporters that a decrease was out of the question for the 40,000-man army.

Art Buchwald

US founding fathers on flag burning

I AM getting sick and tired of having people like George Will tell me what America's founding fathers meant when they wrote the constitution. Will wasn't at the Constitutional Convention, or if he was, he was down in the basement press room with the rest of us, being briefed by Thomas Jefferson's press secretary.

Take the founding fathers' position on the burning of the flag. My notes say that their spokesman indicated that the representatives from the 12 colonies debated the issue for three months. There were those who wanted flag burners to get capital punishment, and there were those who felt that 30 days of community service on the Hudson River would be sufficient.

Massachusetts did not believe flag-burning would do much damage to the country, at least in its formative years. Rhode Island said that it would have to see a flag on fire before it decided if it was treason or not.

Georgia declared that the flag was a symbol of a new nation under God, and those who lit it were committing a crime against freedom and democracy. It demanded a constitutional amendment to forbid it. New Hampshire pointed out that you couldn't add a constitutional amendment when there was no constitution.

New York claimed that burning the flag was what the revolution was all about. It was freedom of speech at its best. The more flags people destroyed, the more jobs would be created for the Delaware textile business, which made red, white and blue nylon fabric for the states.

The issue would have been resolved one way or another except that a delegate from North Carolina, named Helms, interrupted the debate and attacked the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts. Pennsylvania had insisted that it be included in the constitution. Helms pointed out that the NEA was a very subversive organisation, and if it wasn't stopped in its tracks it would someday give grants to museums to hang dirty Mapplethorpe photographs on the walls.

Georgia said that the South always got the short end of the stick.

Nobody at the convention knew what a photograph was, so Helms said it didn't matter because he had heard that the NEA planned to support the financing of oil paintings of Martha Washington in the nude by Gilbert Stuart.

South Carolina announced that it could not join a nation that gave grants to pictures of men holding hands on the Boston Common. Their protest missed getting into the Bill of Rights by one vote.

This may have broken up the convention when the question of gun control came up. There was some talk by New Jersey to forbid citizens to have arms, but it was shouted down by Virginia and Maryland who claimed that, without guns, it would be impossible for them to keep their slaves from running away. New Jersey agreed to let people own firearms as long as it could someday collect tolls on the Garden State Parkway.

Interesting

What makes the constitution such an interesting piece of paper is that we have so many people around today who can tell us exactly what our forefathers meant when they drafted it.

Take the issue of abortion. It isn't mentioned in the constitution, but that doesn't mean it wasn't on the front burner during the long, hot summer in Philadelphia.

After a bitter debate, the founding fathers decided to leave it out of the document so that the Congress of 1990 would have something to do.

The reason we even have a country at all is that, although the constitutional delegates hadn't the slightest idea of what they were agreeing to, it didn't matter. They knew that George Will would tell us what they really had on their minds.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Prague

Havel re-elected by Parliament

PRAGUE, (Reuters): Playwright Vaclav Havel, Czechoslovakia's first freely elected president since 1935, could hardly have scripted a more dramatic change of fortune.

Havel, who has led the country as interim president since last year's democratic revolution swept away decades of communism, was re-elected on Thursday by the Federal Assembly.

He thus became the first president since Eduard Benes in 1935 to be voted into office by a freely-elected Parliament.

Benes resigned after the 1948 communist takeover of Czechoslovakia and his five successors were all elected by docile hand-picked deputies of a communist-dominated Parliament.

Havel, the reluctant leader of the reform movement that swept Czechoslovakia, spent a total of five years in jail for his views and his plays championing that freedom of the individual were banned for 20 years.

Shy, nervous and chain-smoking, he seemed ill at ease as the focus of media attention. "I want to be a king-maker rather than a king," he said on numerous occasions.

Authority

Havel's supporters regard him as a moral authority in the same mould as Czechoslovakia's founding president Tomas Masaryk, a philosopher who served as head of state from 1918 to 1935.

Silenced by the hardline communist regime since the 1968 Soviet-led invasion, Havel was a co-founder of East Europe's oldest human rights groups, Charter 77.

As the various strands of the reform movement came together, Havel was always somewhere at the centre, leading talks with the crumbling communist government and other opposition figures.

Crowds chanted his name as they marched through the streets demanding the resignation of the government and free elections.

Since his election as interim president last December, Havel's popularity at home has bordered on adulation and he has gained universal respect from the world's leaders on whirlwind visits abroad ranging from Washington to Moscow.

Between January and June this year Havel went on 21 trips through Czechoslovakia and visited 12 foreign countries.

In 123 working days Havel gave more than 50 speeches, met 52 representatives of foreign governments and flew more than 30,000 km (18,750 miles) by plane or helicopter.

He had just four days off and spent 10 days in hospital and 11 days convalescing after a hernia operation in March.

Havel was born in Prague on Oct 5, 1936, son of a wealthy building contractor. He had described his background as "quite bourgeois, perhaps upper middle class," something often quoted against him communist government spokesman.

Family

When the communists came to power in 1948, the family buildings were confiscated.

Havel was not allowed to follow the studies of his choice at university. His applications for art history, philosophy and chemistry were all rejected, and he finally enrolled in what he said was the only field open to him: the logistics of motor transport.

Havel's interest in the theatre dated from his time as an army conscript, when he wrote plays with as many male roles as possible to give his friends a change from army routine.

He took a job as a stage hand in Prague's ABC Theatre in 1959, soon switching to the theatre on the balustrade, first as lighting manager, then as secretary and finally as producer and resident playwright.

Havel established his reputation as a non-conformist in the early 1960s with his play "The Garden Party," which was banned before finally being performed in Prague in 1963.

Only one of his other plays, "The Memorandum," was publicly performed in Czechoslovakia, and that was in 1965. On the strength of these two plays one critic called Havel "one of the most promising European playwrights of his generation."

Havel is also a first-class essayist. His "Letters to Olga," written to his wife during his first spell in jail, are a poignant record of prison life and a reflection on freedom and man's moral responsibilities.

But since becoming president, Havel has had no time for writing anything except his speeches.

QUOTE ME

"There are no circumstances in which nuclear retaliation in response to military action might be discounted. However, in the transformed Europe they will be able to adopt a new Nato strategy making nuclear weapons truly weapons of last resort. We have no aggressive intentions and we commit ourselves to the peaceful resolution of all disputes. We will never in any circumstance be the first to use force." — Nato leaders in a communique after their London summit.

"I was waiting to make a substitution but the referee carried on with the game and in that moment the goal came. I told the referee he should have stopped the game earlier and he sent me back from the bench." — Spanish coach on why he was banished from the touchline.

"If the Russians make it a condition that they don't want Russian Jewry to settle because of their political considerations and interests, we will abide by it because we want Russian Jewry here under any cost and under any circumstances." — Israeli Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai.

"We held out despite the heat but the Spaniards weren't at their best. We had a bit of luck but our team played very well. I couldn't have asked for more from them." — Yugoslav coach Ivica Osim.

"I've tried to be very frank and up front, not only with the allies, but also with the Soviets, on the difficulties we have at this juncture because there has got to be economic reform there, market reform, all kinds of changes." — Bush reiterating his opposition to immediate US aid to Moscow.

"I never practiced nearly as much as these boys do." — 81-year-old Fred Perry, who won all four Grand Slam singles titles, including three Wimbledon titles, in 1934-36.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Nations in desperate shape try economic shock therapy

NEW YORK, July 6, (AP): The term "shock therapy" originated in medicine, but lately it's been used just as much in economics. Nations as varied as the Soviet Union, Brazil, Poland and Peru are finding their economies in such desperate shape that draconian, shock cures may be the only answer.

Just a few years ago, some of these shock treatments would have been considered politically or economically suicidal. In communist countries, shock therapy has meant trying to switch from a centrally planned economy to one driven by the free market.

In non-communist nations, it has meant clamping down on inflation to the extent of nearly confiscating private savings, and powerful government intervention in nominally free economies.

Poland and Brazil have moved decisively

down the road of shock therapy so far. They have not been able to claim complete success, but some initial results have been encouraging. Shock therapy has also been under consideration in the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Peru and Nicaragua. But so far these nations have shrunk back in favour of a less drastic solution.

The Polish economic programme was launched Jan 1 in a drive to create a market economy from the shattered system imposed over four decades by the communist government. It included cutting government subsidies to illiquid state-run enterprises.

Pav raises had to come from each industry's own resources. These strict wage controls, coupled with the raising of prices to market levels, reduced Poles' real incomes by an estimated 40 per cent.

Bolstered by strong popular support at home, the government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki made the zloty currency fully convertible, backed by a one-billion-dollar reserve fund lent by Western nations.

Six months later, government statistics showed the country had entered a deep recession. However, Polish economist Krzysztof Bien said the government could claim some success for its plan, although "it is not yet at the stage that would permit us to say that we are irrevocably on the road to a market economy."

Across the border, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's key advisers were reportedly working on a Polish-style virtual overnight conversion of the economic system by freeing most prices and currency controls and letting market forces reshape the economy.

But the Soviet plan leaked to the press, touching off an outcry from a fearful public.

In mid-May, Gorbachev's advisers approved a milder reform plan, which envisioned a doubling of food prices, an 82-per cent rise in energy costs and an average 43-per cent rise in retail prices—but only if the public supported it in a public referendum, for which no date was set.

The Soviet government laid out a five-year schedule of food price hikes, banking reforms and partial privatisations designed to produce a so-called regulated market economy.

Even this touched off panic buying of food items. But radical Soviet reformers found the plan too timid. They criticised the government for backing away from the radical restructuring undertaken by Poland.

Radical economist Pavel Bunich told the Supreme Soviet legislature that the government was merely offering "shock therapy without the therapy," a policy that would hurt without leading to a real market system.

Jeffrey Sachs, an American adviser who initiated the financing project, said the Soviets' gradual strategy is more humane than Poland's and "more fitting for a country that hasn't known a market for 70 years."

Sachs, a private consultant, is unrelated to Harvard University professor Jeffrey Sachs who helped devise Poland's shock therapy programme.

The Soviet five-year plan is a compromise between the old-style centrally planned Soviet economy, under which Moscow set virtually all prices and wages, and the radical Polish-style "shock therapy" to shift to a market

economy over two years. "Getting halfway there may be worse than never even starting," said Ed Hewitt, a Soviet analyst at the Brookings Institute, a Washington research organisation.

Shock therapy, on the other hand, said Soviet First Deputy Premier Yuri Maslyukov, "could throw 40 million people out of work and would lead the country to the edge of an economic crash."

Among non-communist countries, Fernando Collor de Mello, the first popularly elected Brazilian president in 29 years, announced his "shock therapy" plan March 16, one day after winning the presidential election.

Collor claimed he had cut inflation from 84.3 per cent in March to 8 per cent in May.

KPC made \$1.19b profit last year

Commissioning of Mina Abdullah refinery most significant

VIENNA, July 6, (Opecna): The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) realised a profit of \$1.19 billion in 1989, up by more than 680 million over the previous year, according to the corporation's 1989 annual report.

In a foreword to the report, former KPC Board chairman and oil minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah said that KPC had achieved a capital gain of 15 per cent and an annual average of 20 per cent throughout the nine years of its existence, during which the value of its assets had increased four-fold and the shareholders' interests had risen six-fold.

Sheikh Ali, now Kuwait finance minister, notes that in a move to consolidate its resources, the corporation had implemented a capital investment programme capable of compensating for the adverse effects suffered as a result of declining oil prices and help contain additional financial burdens and excessive costs that it had endured during the period of the Gulf war.

The most significant feature of 1989, he says, was the commissioning of the Mina Abdullah refinery modernisation project and its operation at full capacity.

Kuwait boosts tanker fleet

Dollar and gold higher Pound strong

VIENNA, July 6, (Opecna): The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) acquired two second-hand oil tankers each of 330,000 deadweight tons (DWT) last year, boosting the number of vessels in the company's fleet to 25.

According to the corporation's 1989 annual report, the fleet now comprised one crude oil tanker of 407,000 DWT, 20 tankers with a total capacity of 1.61 million DWT and four liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vessels capable of carrying 190,000 DWT.

It said the fleet transported some 3.9 million tonnes of crude oil, about nine million tonnes of petroleum products and around one million tonnes of LPG during the year under review.

Concerning capital investment projects, the report noted that KPC continued to implement its planned programme aimed at increasing and optimising productivity in the corporation's various sectors and achieving higher standards of efficiency and performance.

These included projects pertaining to energy efficiency, environmental protection and maintenance of safety and security, both for manpower and facilities, it stated.

The Mina Abdullah refinery modernisation project, which went onstream last year. The plant was currently operating at full capacity of about 200,000 bpd producing high-quality petroleum products, including petroleum coke, which was being produced for the first time in Kuwait and the Gulf region.

A polypropylene project, the licensing and engineering agreement which was signed in June last year together with contracts for supplying feedstock and marketing agreements.

Rehabilitation of an FCC unit and MTBE alkylation units (MAA refinery), expected to be completed in 1992.

Construction progress on the new Ahmadi depot, expected to be completed this year, in addition to the modernisation of the central control room at Shuaiba refinery and other projects.

LONDON, July 6, (AP): The dollar rose slightly higher in European trading today, although dealers said it was not clear if the rise was a sign of a new trend.

The US unemployment rate fell to 5.2 per cent in June, despite a continuing slump in the nation's manufacturing and construction sectors, the government said.

The rate was better than forecasts which had called for a modest rise from the May rate of 5.3 per cent. Dealers said they had been looking to the unemployment figures for hints of possible credit easing by the Federal Reserve Board. But some analysts said the figures, when they arrived, did not provide any basis for predictions.

"It's a market that built itself up all week for the numbers and then remembered it was a Friday and decided not to do anything," said a senior dealer with a major British bank.

Meanwhile, attention was largely turned to the pound, which continued trading strongly on widespread speculation that Britain soon would join the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

The British pound rose to \$1.7865, from late yesterday's \$1.7795.

In Tokyo, the dollar closed at 150.95 yen, down 0.05 yen from yesterday's close. Later in London, the dollar was quoted at 151.00 yen.

Other dollar rates compared with yesterday:

■ 1.6540 German marks, up from 1.6497

■ 1.4005 Swiss francs, up from 1.3990

■ 5.5515 French francs, up from 5.5357

■ 1.8597 Dutch guilders, up from 1.8582

■ 2.1325 Italian lire, up from 2.1205

■ 1.1630 Canadian dollars, up from 1.1627

Bullion dealers said trading was quiet and that the precious metal stayed within a narrow range.

Gold in London was quoted at a late price of \$361.25 per troy ounce this afternoon, up from \$359.75 late yesterday.

Gold in Zurich was quoted at \$361.25, up from \$359.50 late yesterday.

Gold in Hong Kong dropped 21 cents an ounce today, to close at \$361.26.

Silver bullion was quoted in London at \$4.88 a troy ounce, unchanged from late yesterday.

At the start of foreign exchange trading in Switzerland today, one Kuwaiti dinar was trading at 4,809 Swiss francs, as against the closing rate yesterday of 4,796, the Swiss-Kuwaiti bank reported.

Against the dollar, the German mark opened at 5.6697 (5.6574), the pound, sterling, 1.7810 (1.7823), the Japanese yen, 161.8951 (161.8908), and the US dollar remained unchanged at 1.5430.

In New York, Wall Street blue chip stocks posted their biggest loss in two weeks yesterday on selling fuelled by a report that White House aides were considering a tax on the sale of securities.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 32.42 points at 2,879.21. Volume was low at 128.3 million shares, with declines leading advances by a 1,061-399 margin. The average share lost 39 cents.

The tax trial balloon was the culprit, said Jon Croveman, president of Ladenburg Thalmann & Co.

A Wall Street Journal report said the White House is contemplating a proposal to levy a tax of up to 0.5 per cent on the sale of stocks, bonds and futures contracts.

In Tokyo, stocks and the dollar both ended higher today ahead of the release of a key US economic indicator, dealers said.

The benchmark Nikkei stock index whipsawed up and down on arbitrage buying of the cash index and on interest in issues with small market capitalisation. But despite the fluctuations, brokers said the overall market mood was quiet.

"The market was better characterised by its inactivity than by its activity," said Paul Mifflin, a broker at Jardine Fleming Securities Ltd.

The key 225-share Nikkei index was up 93.45 points, or 0.29 per cent, to 32,445.12 after shedding 94.25 points yesterday.

The dollar closed firm against most major currencies, except for sterling, in a nervous, speculative trade.

The US currency ended at 150.95 yen and 1.6522 marks against a close of 150.50 and 1.6515 in New York yesterday.

In other regional markets, Taiwan stocks ended higher for the first time in four sessions after investors felt the index had hit bottom, dealers said.

In London, equities staged a modest, largely technical recovery, on London's international stock exchange today at the end of a depressing account marked by a rash of downgraded profit forecasts.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index reached 2038.4 points at 4 pm, up 7.0 points. The financial Times 30 index stood at 1863.8 points, up 5.6 points.

In Sydney, Wall Street's yesterday fall sent the All Ordinaries index down 3.6 to 1554.2.

In Hong Kong, stocks recovered after initial losses. Turnover totalled 1.82 billion Hong Kong dollars.

In addition, eight new tankers were acquired for the corporation's fleet, while progress was made in implementing other projects in accordance with planned programmes.

KPC, the report maintains, had continued its efforts to maintain safety and industrial security at its installations and work sites and had implemented programmes to protect the environment against pollution in co-operation with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

In addition, the foreword points out that the conservation of energy consumption had "always been given due consideration and interest," being one of the corporation's most important objectives.

"KPC is entering the threshold of the 1990s with great aspirations coupled with the experience gained in the past years," Al Sabah says.

"Kuwait has worked hard in conjunction with other interested parties to attain complete stability and equilibrium in the oil market," he affirms.

Al Sabah states that the corporation was currently studying the restructuring of some of its subsidiaries to improve their performance, extending marketing activities to other areas of the world, updating and consolidating operating assets and implementing new and vital projects that would earn greater profits and realise the Gulf country's development objectives.

Concerning the corporation's drilling operations, the report discloses that 14 wells were completed during the year, three of which were exploratory wells, 10 for development purposes and one was a delineation well.

A total of 21 shallow wells were also drilled, out of which eight were water wells and 13 were cathodic protection wells.

In production development and reservoir engineering, several studies progressed. A simulation study of the lower Burgan reservoirs of Raudhatain and Sahriyah fields was concluded and their development, for high recovery, was planned.

In east and west Kuwait oil fields, two preliminary simulation studies for the Marrat reservoir in Magwa and Managish fields were conducted to appraise their oil content.

Both studies revealed the need for fluid injection to keep reservoir pressure high enough to maintain the required output capacity and prevent asphaltene deposition in production strings.

The report says that the corporation had developed the country's refineries by increasing their refining capacity to more than 770,000 b/d and by improving the quality of the products, thus strengthening the country's competitiveness in the marketplace.



For G-7 summit

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu (centre) waves to well-wishers with his accompanying ministers, Trade Minister Kaibun Muto (left) and Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto as they board the Prime Minister's special plane bound for Houston, Texas, July 6, to attend the Group of Seven summit. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gas tax proposal divides auto makers

WASHINGTON, July 6, (AP): The big three domestic auto makers are divided over the idea of raising the federal gasoline tax to help reduce the budget deficit.

It is the first time the commission has sought to look into the wave of takeovers and mergers between East and West German companies in the runup to unification.

EC commissioner Sir Leon Brittan said in a statement he was concerned that competition in the 12-nation bloc could be undermined by the purchase of 45 per cent of Verbundnetz AG, which controls East Germany's natural gas network, by Ruhrgas AG and Bebo Erdgas and Erdol GmbH of West Germany.

BA said delivery of the new aircraft would begin in 1992 and be completed in 1993. The order is made up from new firm orders for 14 planes along with exercising existing options on seven.

The airline, privatised in 1987, currently operates 13 747-400s. It boosted pre-tax profits by nearly 29 per cent last year to £345 million (\$614 million).

Gas pipeline acquisition EC probes German firms

BRUSSELS, July 6, (Reuters): The European Community's Executive Commission started a controversial investigation today into the acquisition by two West German firms of a large stake in East Germany's gas pipeline network.

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US unemployment rate fell slightly to 5.2 per cent in June

WASHINGTON, July 6, (AP): The US unemployment rate fell slightly to 5.2 per cent in June, despite a continued slump in the nation's manufacturing and construction sectors, the government said today.

The civilian jobless rate, as measured by a household survey by the Labour Department, dropped from the 5.3 per cent registered in May. The nation's unemployment rate has been fluctuating close to 5.3 per cent for more than a year.

Private industries produced 92,000 new

jobs last month, a weaker number than the 125,000 payroll additions private analysts had been expecting.

Job growth figures are derived from a separate survey of business establishments. That is often considered a more reliable indicator of economic activity than the household survey from which the overall unemployment rate is calculated.

Friday's report, and its evidence of continued sluggishness, was sure to renew pressure on the Federal Reserve—the US

central bank—to lower interest rates and spur economic activity.

The nation's manufacturing sector, which has been on a downward spiral for months, continued its slide as factory payrolls fell by 31,000 jobs. It was the 14th time in 15 months that manufacturing jobs declined.

Since reaching a post-recession peak in March 1989, about 335,000 factory jobs have been lost.

The number of construction jobs fell for the fourth month in a row, reflecting continued weakness in the housing market, the government said. Construction payrolls, after seasonal adjustment, fell by 14,000.

Meanwhile, the service sector, which has been providing most of the economy's steam over the past several months, added 83,000 jobs, including 40,000 in the health services industry.

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Kaifu speaks for Asia at summit

TOKYO, June 6, (Reuters): Premier Toshiki Kaifu plans to speak at next week's Houston summit not only for Japan but for all of Asia. But does Asia want him to?

Diplomats said that, while Japan's neighbours welcome its aid, technology and investment, had memories of the past and the complex web of alliances in Asia make them unwilling to accept Japan as their political leader.

"As the representative of the only nation from Asia, Kaifu will not only present at the summit the case of Japan but will take the initiative on Asian matters, including China," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

Kaifu leaves Japan today to join the leaders of France, West Germany, Canada, Britain,

Italy and the United States for the Group of Seven (G-7) summit in Houston starting on Tuesday.

Yesterday Kaifu called South Korean President Roh Tae-woo to brief him on Japan's position at the summit and assured him he would urge the participants to do all they can for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and elsewhere in Asia.

The agenda is dominated by non-Asian issues — rebuilding Eastern Europe, how much to aid the Soviet Union, and policy toward the Middle East and Central America.

The only Asian item is whether to end economic sanctions against China.

In an editorial yesterday, the Asahi Shimbun,

a Japanese daily newspaper, attempted to sum up the feeling of the outsider at the Houston banquet.

"As the only party who did not participate directly in the changes (of the last year), Japan cannot drink champagne with the other six," it said.

Unlike the two blocs that used to confront each other in Europe, Asia presents a more complicated picture, it said.

The dramatic changes of the last year in Europe have had only a faint echo in Asia.

China suppressed a democracy movement, the forces of the two Koreas, armed to the teeth, remain poised for battle, the Cambodian conflict has grown more intense and unrest in

Kashmir has brought India and Pakistan close to war.

While Moscow and Washington discuss withdrawing their troops from Europe, Tokyo wants US troops to stay in Asia.

A Western diplomat said Japan wanted a new political status to match its role as an economic superpower but was constrained by historical dependence on the United States, the complexity of the Asian situation and bitter memories of its wartime role.

"If Japan tries to play the role of leader in Asia, it would only be at the price of arousing repugnance because of history," the Asahi editorial noted.

The scars of history remain visible today.

Future technology

Will Japan reign supreme?

ATSUGI, Japan, July 6, (AP): A beam of X-rays streams down from an ungainly, multi-million-dollar ring of metal tubes. Their target: a prototype semiconductor chip, on which they will etch circuit parts two-tenths of a micron (0.001 millimetres or 0.00004 inches) across — the width of a single bacteria.

Technology such as this 16-metre (53-foot) ring, being tested by the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Co., may make the ultra-complex semiconductors of the future. But at \$1 million each, semiconductor plants with such X-ray rings will cost more than chip makers in many countries can afford.

The equipment at NTT's Atsugi laboratory illustrates the willingness — and financial ability — of Japanese companies to invest in future technologies.

As the costs and time needed to develop many advanced technologies skyrocketed, fewer companies will have the means or the will to perfect them. As a result, analysts say, cash-rich, aggressive Japanese firms may extend their already-growing technological edge.

Japan still lags behind Europe and the United States in the building of some specialised equipment, and for now spends less overall than Americans on research and development. Computer software is a crucial area in which Americans still hold advantages.

But as the chip-etching technology illustrates, Japan has a strong ability to concentrate money and attention on key areas of research that could tip the future of whole industries.

In semiconductors, for instance, the fast-growing number of tiny parts on semiconductor chips means factories soon will no longer be able to use normal light beams to etch extremely fine circuit lines.

US companies have announced only one private research project like NTT's X-ray ring — a joint effort by IBM and Motorola that uses a general-purpose ring at the federal government's Brookhaven laboratory. But already half a dozen experimental rings — called synchrotron orbital radiation devices — exist in Japan, and immense Japanese companies are pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into their development.

"Without the tools and without the capital to make the tools, the next generation of semiconductors will be more and more difficult (for US companies) to make," said E. David Metz, executive director of the US Semiconductor Industry Association's Japan office.

"I am worried about the growing difference in the two countries' industrial strength," he added. "The US base has been eroding, while Japan's has been steadily growing."

Last year, Japanese companies were the top four winners of patents in the United States and reportedly filed nearly half the patents in the world.

Japan leads in five out of 20 critical defence technologies — semiconductors, biotechnology, robotics, superconductivity and photonics — according to a March US Defence Department report. Japanese companies also dominate technologies used to make consumer products such as cameras, cars, videocassettes, recorders and camcorders.

Analysts trace Japan's lead to intense technological competition among Japanese companies, longer-term management strategies, lower costs of capital, and rapid application of new technologies to cycle after cycle of mass-produced consumer products.

Japanese companies have been willing to spend years developing new products, such as home videocassette recorders, that were abandoned as impractical by companies elsewhere.

Recently, researchers at Fujitsu Ltd and Hitachi Ltd announced development of computer microprocessors that use Josephson Junctions, super-fast superconducting electronic circuits that IBM investigated but abandoned in 1983.

While about one-third of US research and development spending goes to defence, the vast majority of Japan's research spending is commercial.

"In Japan, research is the business of business," said James Abegglen, professor of international business at Tokyo's Sophia University. "In the United States, not enough is spent on research, and there's a massive waste of research and development funds in sectors like the military that are not very productive in commercial terms."

Hajime Karatsu, a professor at Tokai University, says US and European researchers tend to use new technologies first for the most sophisticated applications — often high-priced, low-production military products — while Japanese researchers, generally employed by private companies, favour the mass consumer market.

"In Japan, researchers first used new carbon fibre materials to make fishing rods and golf clubs, but in France and the United States,

carbon fibre was used in airplane wings," he said.

That "bottom-up" approach to technology allows companies to cut prices through mass production and gives them the manufacturing expertise and capital for subsequent generations of technological change, Karatsu said.

Despite the overseas image of a monolithic "Japan, Inc.," in many Japanese consumer industries a large number of companies compete fiercely, creating a marketplace where profits depend on narrow time leads for new products and where technological complacency can bring disaster.

Japanese managers also consistently have turned economic adversity into technological advantage, Karatsu said. He cited the sudden rise in the value of the Japanese yen five years ago as a spur to companies facing competition from lower-cost producers like South Korea and Taiwan.

"Managers realised the need to focus on high-value-added, high-technology products," Karatsu said. "Within three years, the production technology in virtually all Japanese factories was upgraded and most marginal production was eliminated."

In 1988, Japan spent 10.6 trillion yen (\$67 billion) on research and development, about half the total spent in the United States, the Science and Technology Agency says. That represents about 2.85 per cent of Japan's gross national product, slightly above the US level.

But private industry paid for 80 per cent of Japan's research, compared with less than 50 per cent in the United States. Rather than funding large research projects, Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is widely credited with successfully targeting key products such as cars and semiconductors and co-ordinating the efforts of Japanese industry to achieve technological leadership.

Many MITI projects focus on development of technologies that can be used in new products in about five to 10 years. In contrast, the US government generally limits its research programmes to far-off technologies so as not to favour any particular industry, said Louis Lanniello, deputy associate director for basic energy sciences at the US Department of Energy.

Lanniello was in Japan recently asking for financial backing for the United States' proposed \$8-billion superconducting supercollider — a huge particle accelerator — which backers say is unlikely to result in practical applications for more than 10 years.

And as in other countries, Japanese government procurement practices also have played a role in technological advancement. Under US pressure, Japan recently agreed to open up bidding on government purchases of supercomputers and satellites.

But large investments by private companies remain the overwhelming driving force in Japanese technological progress. Companies say they're willing to co-operate with other firms in government-sponsored basic research, but jealously protect their own advanced research.

Fujio Saito, a vice-president of NEC Corp., a leading computer and semiconductor maker, says the money in government research programmes is "not so important." More significant, he says, is "a national goal has the effect of orienting individual companies in a particular direction. Once such a goal is indicated, many people make an effort to develop the necessary elements."

MITI's most recent project is a "sixth-generation" computer programme aimed at linking a million microprocessors in a single computer, compared to the single process in most current machines. The United States now leads in such research, called "massive parallel processing," in which problems are broken down into multiple parts and solved simultaneously by the many processors.

In the Japanese proposal, the processors would be combined into "neural networks" analogous to the human brain, with the links between some processors becoming stronger and others weaker as the computer learns from doing problems. The programme which could determine future leadership in computer technology, may become one of Japan's biggest projects in the 1990s, the ministry's Hideki Aso said.

To succeed, Japan will need to boost its software and systems integration skills — where analysts say it still lags — because of the difficult challenge of co-ordinating the many processors.

Japan's technological prowess has other gaps as well. The Trade Ministry, in a recent report, called for a doubling of government science spending, to about one per cent of GNP, to invigorate Japan's weak base science research.

Neil to face hearing: Government bank regulators on Thursday ordered President George Bush's son, Neil, to appear at a public hearing in September to explain why, as a savings and loan officer, he approved loans to a business partner.

The hearing, before an administrative law judge of the office of thrift supervision, is scheduled for Sept 25.

Thrift office director Timothy Ryan decided to make the hearing public, as well as the administrative charges filed in February against Neil Bush, over the younger Bush's objections. (AP)

Trump faces deadline: Real estate developer Donald Trump owed the city at least \$13.6 million in real estate taxes, payable by midnight Thursday, a little more than a week after a "band-aid" bridge loan saved him from default on bonds and bank loans.

A spokesman for the Department of Finance said the cash-strapped Trump was among 400 of the city's biggest landowners to be billed into the city's nearly empty coffers for payment of municipal employees on Friday. (UPI)

Lufthansa orders: Deutsche Lufthansa AG, West Germany's state-controlled airline, ordered 20 new aircraft for about two billion marks (\$1.21 billion) from the Airbus Industrie Thursday, a Lufthansa spokesman said.

The airline signed a contract with the European Airbus consortium to buy 20 Airbus A321, said Jürgen Weber of Lufthansa.

"The A321 complements the Lufthansa fleet in an ideal manner," Weber said. (UPI)

Daimler-Benz joint venture: Daimler-Benz plans to enter a joint venture with a formerly state-owned East German firm to

manufacture a total of 50,000 vehicles annually, Daimler's chairman said Wednesday.

"We share the conviction that after a difficult period, East Germany will be able to reckon with a booming economic development," Edzard Reuter said at the annual shareholder's meeting.

Unlike Volkswagen, the largest German car manufacturer, Daimler will not expand its own car production into East Germany, Reuter said. (UPI)

Shifting into high gear: Japanese makers of luxury cars are shifting into higher gear, with their upstarts taking aim at European and American makers of big and expensive automobiles.

Toyota Motor Company, which introduced its Lexus line last September, reported Thursday it has sold 28,439 of the two Lexus models — the LS400 sold here for about \$40,000, and the less expensive ES250 costing around \$20,000. (Kuna)

De Beers record sales: De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd, the world's biggest diamond producer, said on Thursday its marketing arm had record sales of \$2.48 billion worth of rough diamonds in the first half of 1990.

The sales by the London-based Central Selling Organisation (CSO), which controls four-fifths of the world's rough diamond market, were seven per cent higher than in the same period of 1989 and 40 per cent up on the second half of last year. (Reuters)

Chidzero wins: Zimbabwe is on the brink of a far-reaching economic shake-up after Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero this week won

cabinet approval to scrap state controls introduced 25 years ago.

"If we implement all the policies, it could be a whole new Zimbabwe in three to five years," Chidzero said on Thursday.

The controls were imposed to counter an international trade embargo on the then white-ruled Rhodesia. (Reuters)

SA economy in recession: The South African economy, buffeted by inflation, a low gold price and foreign sanctions, is officially in a recession, the Reserve Bank said Thursday.

"We are in a difficult period now. More difficult times lie ahead," Chris Stales, governor of the Reserve Bank, told state-run television. (AP)

Gibraltar names man: Gibraltar said it appointed a commissioner on Thursday to control Gibraltar's booming financial centre, which has come under attack recently for alleged money-laundering activities.

William Penman Brown, a former vice-president of the Manufacturers Hanover Bank subsidiary in the Channel Island of Guernsey, will run the new financial services commission from September. (Reuters)

Koor loses: Koor, Israel's biggest industrial group that lost nearly \$300 million last year, reported a net loss of \$10 million for the first quarter on Thursday and said it was in danger of collapse.

"In the absence of a finalised and signed financial settlement, we can not stop Koor from its downward spiral," the group said in a statement.

Koor's debt to banks, financial institutions and bondholders totals almost \$1.5 billion.

EEC chief backs UK plan for European currency unit

LONDON, June 6, (AP): European Commission President Jacques Delors said Britain's proposal for a hard European currency unit (ECU) was relevant and urged its full examination.

But Delors nevertheless called for rapid adoption of the ECU as a single currency replacing all others in the European Economic Community.

Writing in the latest edition of the Amex Bank Review, Delors also urged quick creation of a European central bank, which Prime Minister

Margaret Thatcher strongly opposes.

Britain has proposed the creation of a 13th parallel currency that would circulate alongside the 12 existing currencies but would not replace them.

The ECU, made up of a basket of currencies, currently is used mostly for accounting between EEC nations.

Delors reiterated his desire for the EEC to move quickly toward the later stages of economic and monetary union, which were outlined last year in

what is known as the Delors report.

"The single currency should be adopted as quickly as possible," Delors wrote in the review, a publication of American Express Bank Ltd in London.

Urging early establishment of a single European central bank, or Eurofed, he added that once the new bank assumes monetary controls, "there will be nothing to be gained by delaying the move to a single currency."

World Bank lending drops

WASHINGTON, July 6, (AP): Lending by the World Bank, the biggest source of aid to the Third World, has declined in the past 12 months for the first time since 1985, the bank reported yesterday.

The decrease was due partly to a reduction in loans to China after it used its military to stop a pro-democracy movement.

Figures for the bank's year, which runs from July 1 to June 30, were made public by Moeen A. Qureshi, a Pakistani who is the bank's senior vice-president for operations.

New loans for the year just ended ended at \$28.7 billion. That was \$600 million less than the \$29.3 billion of the year before.

Loans to China dropped by more than \$700 million, falling to \$590 million from \$1.3 billion in the year before the suppression of the democracy movement.

Just after the Chinese government moved its military forces against demonstrators, bank President Barber Conable withdrew \$780 million worth of loans for China from consideration.

Then President George Bush asked the bank to halt loans to China. Later there was international agreement that new loans should be limited to basic human needs.

The past year also brought a large drop in World Bank lending to India, where loans fell to \$1.9 billion from \$3 billion the year before. But bank officials said that was a coincidence and not the result of policy.

Mexico displaced India as the biggest borrower, taking \$2.6 billion compared with \$2.2 billion in the previous year.

Lending by the bank had been rising steadily, and is expected to increase again in the next 12 months.

The bank is now playing a much bigger role in what used to be considered the "second world," European countries that have been under communist rule.

"We have initiated lending in Poland for a total of some \$780 million this fiscal year," and have continued our programmes in Hungary," Qureshi said at a news conference last week.

"We are preparing support programmes for Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, both of which are expected to become bank members in the coming year, and are ready to rescue new activities in Romania."

The late communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu paid off almost all Romania's debts but the country has remained among the bank's 151 member countries.

The Soviet Union has never belonged. Treasury Secretary Nicholas F Brady spoke recently of creating some ties between the Soviets, the bank and its sister organisation, the International Monetary Fund.

The Soviet Union will be a member of the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, but for three years will be able to borrow only as much as it contributes in the form of paid-in capital.

World Bank President Barber Conable urged the United States and other creditor governments to reduce the burden of the debts owed them by Poland and other "middle income" countries.

The bank, includes among these countries Bolivia, where the average citizen earns about \$570 a year, to a nation like Greece, where the average is \$4,800.

"Poland's debt situation must be dealt with in some way," Conable said. "They have almost \$45 billion in debt, they have a one year moratorium on principal and interest and clearly the debt service for that would make it very difficult for Poland to rescue growth and to make the necessary investments for getting a functioning economy with moving parts."

"Debt service" means payments of interest and principal.

Most Polish debt is owed to governments, with West Germany and France the biggest creditors. About \$3 billion is owed to the US government's Export-Import Bank and Commodity Credit Corporation.

The World Bank has lent Poland \$780 million in the past 12 months, Conable said that was done on the assumption that some international settlement would be made on the rest of Poland's official debt.

Washington, July 6, (Reuters): In a move that puts added pressure on the federal reserve to loosen its grip, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady called yesterday for lower interest rates to keep the 7-1/2 year US economic expansion on track.

"We are enjoying slower than projected growth and that's not good," Brady told a small group of reporters ahead of next week's economic summit in Houston of top industrial democracies.

The economy grew at an annual pace of 1.9 per cent in the first quarter, below the administration's 1990 forecast of 2.6 per cent.

Brady's remarks were the latest in a series of statements by top administration officials aimed at

Raise revenue, pare US budget deficit

Bush thinking over securities sales tax

WASHINGTON, July 6,

(Reuters): Plan to tax securities transactions is one of several options being considered by the US administration to raise revenue and pare the United States budget deficit, congressional sources said yesterday.

But the idea, labelled in an article in the Wall Street Journal newspaper as a securities transfer excise tax of 0.5 per cent on sales,

drew angry opposition from securities industry executives who said it could hurt American competitiveness in the world market.

Many traders blamed the proposal for a 32-point fall yesterday in the Dow Jones industrial index on the New York Stock Exchange.

A transaction tax would be

seen as a major setback to US efforts to recapture a piece of the securities trading business, which has increasingly fled to overseas markets such as Tokyo and London.

Officials of the White House and the Securities and Exchange commission, the agency which regulates the securities industry, were unavailable for comment on the proposal.

But he said that the administration was doing its part to foster lower interest rates by working hard to reach agreement with Congress on reducing the US budget deficit.

Higher interest rates tend to push up the deficit by increasing the cost of borrowing to the treasury.

Brady calls for lower interest rates to aid economy

WASHINGTON, July 6, (Reuters): In a move that puts added pressure on the federal reserve to loosen its grip, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady called yesterday for lower interest rates to keep the 7-1/2 year US economic expansion on track.

"We are enjoying slower than projected growth and that's not good," Brady told a small group of reporters ahead of next week's economic summit in Houston of top industrial democracies.

The economy grew at an annual pace of 1.9 per cent in the first quarter, below the administration's 1990 forecast of 2.6 per cent.

Brady's remarks were the latest in a series of statements by top administration officials aimed at

convincing the US central bank to loosen its grip on credit and sanction a drop in interest rates.

So far, the federal reserve has resisted the political pressure, placing more emphasis on the fight against inflation than on ensuring continued economic growth.

"Worries about inflation are important but they shouldn't be subjected to a good, strong, healthy concern for continued growth," Brady said.

While he did not see signs of a recession, Brady made clear that the administration believes the economy is not growing fast enough.

"We are below the administration's growth goals

and we would like to get back on that path again as soon as possible," he said.

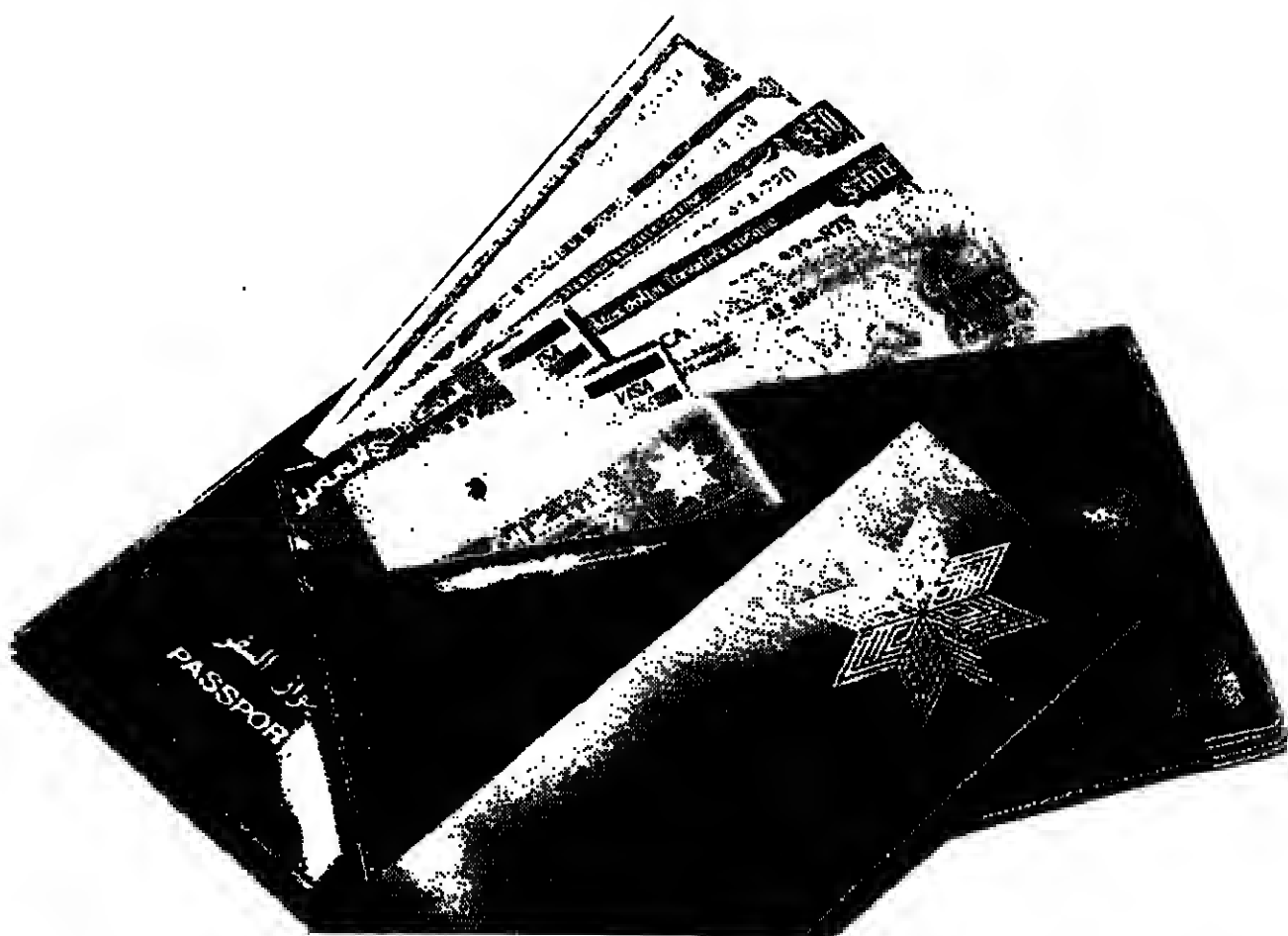
Brady acknowledged that his ability to influence the independent federal reserve was limited.

"The Fed conducts its own affairs and does it at its own pace," he said. "Treasury secretaries don't affect that very much."

But he said that the administration was doing its part to foster lower interest rates by working hard to reach agreement with Congress on reducing the US budget deficit.

Higher interest rates tend to push up the deficit by increasing the cost of borrowing to the treasury.

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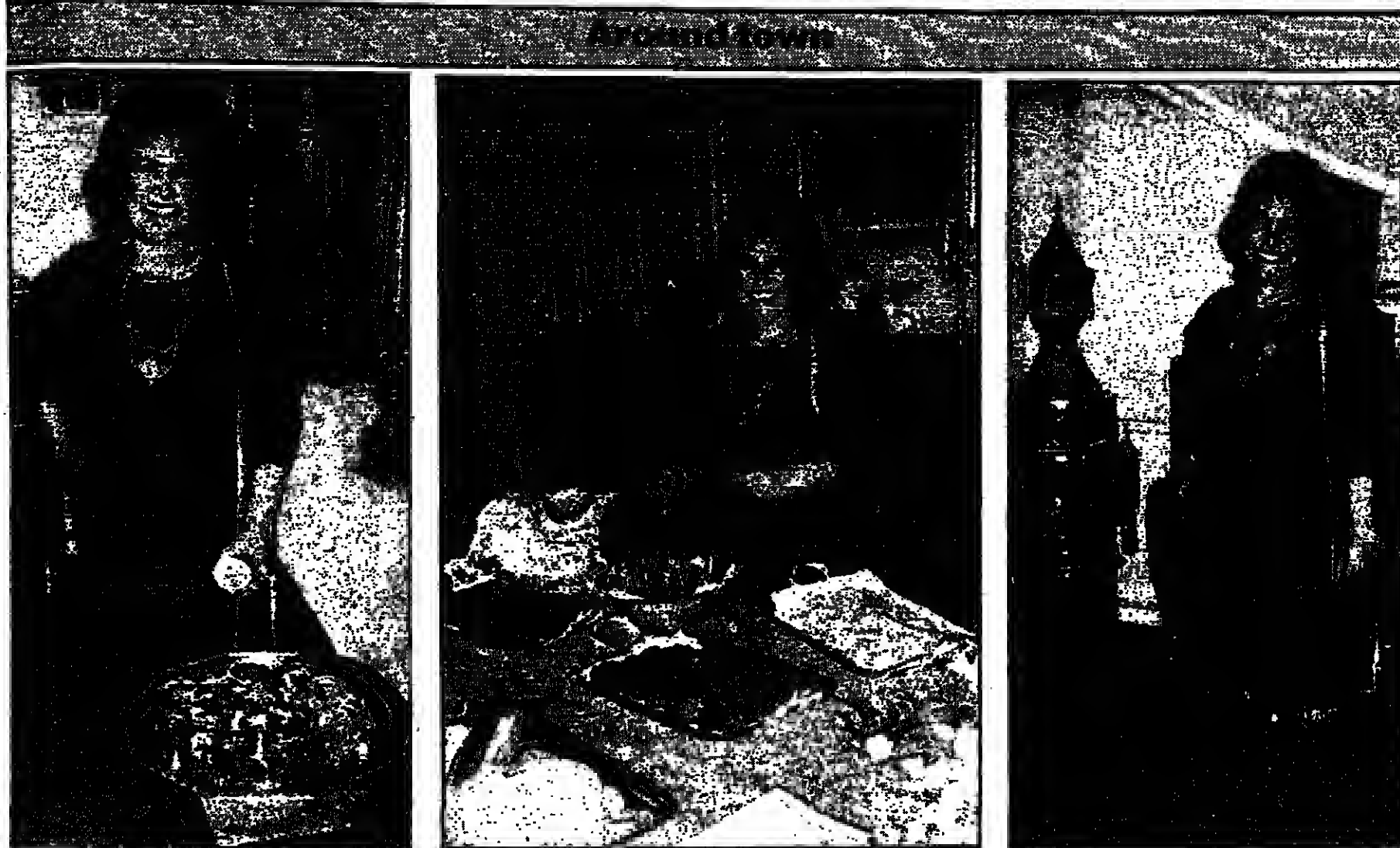


Commercial Bank

The Bank For Today

The following branches are open between 4.30 pm. to 7 pm. Saturday to Wednesdays:

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Eid in style

Eid Al Adha was celebrated in style with family and friends by Sheikhha Nashmiya Al Ahmed Al Sabah. The Sheikhha held a lavish reception at her home on Wednesday. Kuwaiti ladies from prominent families were invited to exchange greetings. During Eid, open-houses are often held by Muslim families so that family and friends can together celebrate the festival. Such events were also held by a number of families. Pictures above show Sheikhha Nashmiya preparing for the arrival of her guests; right: some of the ladies who attended. In the background are some of the prized possessions collected by Sheikhha Nashmiya.



- SUNDAY**
July 8
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Macaroni cartoon serial
6.30 The Beachcombers: "Stars of Wonder." A baby is born in the wilderness; because the infant is premature, only a miracle can save its life. Starring: Bruno Gerussi, Robert Clothier.
7.00 Natural World: "The Serpent Embrace." Serpents in mythology; superstitions revolving around them and other culms.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Made-in-Kuwait: Start of a new local series on products around Kuwait. Also, a look at local industrial development.
9.30 E.N.G.: "Special Segment." News editor Mike assigns the reporters to prepare special reports on the American way of life. Terry's assignment — a profile on a docting affair.
10.00 The Lenny Henry Show: comedy.
10.30 Best Seller: "Kane and Abel," based on Jeffrey Archer's best-selling novel of the same name. Starring: Peter Strauss, Sam O'Neil.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/ Closedown.
- MONDAY**
July 9
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 Only One Earth: "The Road to Ruin." A look at Solomon Island.
7.00 Roving Report: KTV presents roundup of regional and world news.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: Charles and Buddy learn that Nancy is not who she claims to be. Will they reveal her true identity?
8.00 News in English
8.40 Face in Face: A local programme. Tonight, an interview with Dalal Al Ghanim, deputy manager for marketing affairs at a local bank.
9.10 Jake and the Fat Man: "The Lady in Red." Jack follows up Eddy's suicide case; investigations reveal he was murdered.
9.40 The People Next Door: "I Do, I Do." Abby is reluctant to marry a divorcee with children. Everyone tries to convince her that he is good
- TUESDAY**
July 10
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Chic and Dale's Rescue: cartoon serial
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: future planning, baby-sitters and how to make use of your old clothes are some of the items featured in this episode.
7.00 International Overdoorman: "Sailing Tall Ships." A look at ship repairs.
7.30 Kate and Allie: "Moving On." Kate, instead of attending Allie's 40th birthday party, makes other plans. Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.40 You and the Law: a weekly programme on Kuwaiti laws, prepared by the Interior Ministry.
9.10 Bordertown.
- WEDNESDAY**
July 11
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Karate Kid: cartoon serial
6.30 Alf: "Breaking Up is Hard to Do." Alf creates trouble for the neighbours, and Trevor is jealous.
7.00 P.M. Magazine: a magazine featuring science news from around the world.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Chart Attack: Top twenty songs from Europe.
9.10 Paradise: "The Common Good." Ethan manages to put Jenny Ryan behind bars; he also has to fight attempts to free her.
- THURSDAY**
July 12
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 My Secret Identity: shown at 2 pm and 5.15 pm.
- FRIDAY**
July 13
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 Family Feature Film: "Tommy Tricker: The Stamp Traveller." Tommy steals a stamp from his father's collection; soon, he is changed into a stamp and posted to Australia.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Breaking Away: a look at what's on in Kuwait.
9.15 T & T: "Every Picture." A girl tries to protect herself from a criminal by changing her identity. Starring: Mr. T.
10.00 Doctor Doctor: Michael is named the "Most Famous Celibate"; this angers his girlfriend. Comedy.
10.30 The Men: Danny's girlfriend is pregnant; Charlie and Steve try to regain their youth.
11.30 News in Brief
11.35 Magazine D'Actualite/ Closedown
- SATURDAY**
July 14
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: cartoon serial.
6.30 Abracadabra: Time Tunnel — Space Travel. This episode examines the developments leading to space exploration. It also looks at the theories of Copernicus and Galileo.
7.00 The Hogan Family: "Day Off." David plays the clown to celebrate the birthday of Mrs. Paul's granddaughter.
7.30 The Last Frontier: an expedition explores Colombian shores and searches for a shipwreck. Also, a look at life beneath the waters.

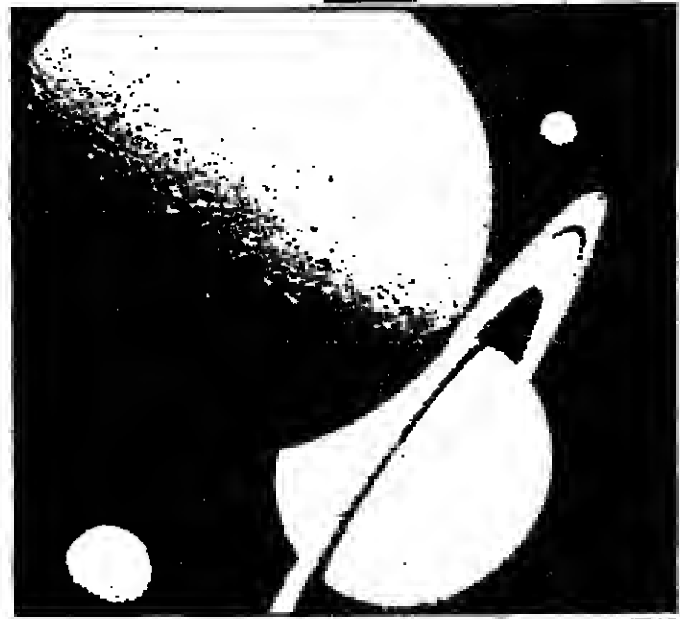


The Adventurer makes a deal with natives in Thursday's episode.
10.00 Witness to Survival: a model loses her face in an accident. Her determination to be normal amazes her doctors.
10.30 Feature Film: "The Honorary Moon Machine." Comedy.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/ Closedown

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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

- KTV-1**
- 9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Al Bad Al Khamasi: cartoons
9.40 Ifish Ya Simsim (Sesame Street).
10.10 Waad Al Nahar: Arabic serial; starring: Azza Kamal, Moustafa Fahmi.
11.15 Sabah Al Khair: (Good Morning).
12.00 Al Kanaz: Arabic serial. Part one. Starring: Hind Kamel, Nazir Al Samarai, May Jamal, Fawzi Mahdi.
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
1.30 Al Sanafer: cartoon serial.
2.00 Cartoons
2.30 Saif Haar: (Hot Summer). Arabic serial.
3.00 Min Hadei Al Quran: religious programme
3.35 Al Asdiqah: The Friends. Arabic serial. Part one. Starring: Jalal Shargawi, Leila Hamada.
6.00 Al Fanan Sagheer: children's serial.
6.30 Noor Al Islam: the Light of Islam.
7.30 Variety
8.00 Nadwai Al Osbou: Weekly discussion.
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Raqeeb La Yanam: "The Vigilantes." Arabic series.
11.00 Saaleek Lakin Sho'raa: Hoologans But Poets. Arabic serial.
12.00 News Summary
12.15 World News via Satellite
12.35 Holy Quran/Closedown



Adventures in Space examines the "New Frontier." tonight on KTV 2.

- KTV-2**
- 6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: cartoon serial.
6.30 Abracadabra: Time Tunnel — Space Travel. This episode examines the developments leading to space exploration. It also looks at the theories of Copernicus and Galileo.
7.00 The Hogan Family: "Day Off." David plays the clown to celebrate the birthday of Mrs. Paul's granddaughter.
7.30 The Last Frontier: an expedition explores Colombian shores and searches for a shipwreck. Also, a look at life beneath the waters.
- 8.00 News in English**
8.40 Murder. She Wrote: "Murder. According to Maggie." a young crime writer, Maggie helps police solve a murder. Starring: Angela Lansbury.
9.30 Adventures in Space: "The Threshold of the New Frontier." Part one. The various stages in the development of the rocket; Russian and American experiments in the field.
10.30 Saturday Movie: "The Outside Woman."
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/ Closedown.
- Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.20 am
Zuhr	11.53
Asr	3.27 pm
Maghreb	6.51 pm
Isha	8.23

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaiikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus**
Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra Al Salmiyah
Arabic play
Al Hamra
Al Mo'allimma Samah (Arabic)
Starring: Ezzat Alaili, Madiha Kamel
Drive-In
Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra Al Salmiyah
Kaun Jeeta, Kaun Haara (Hindi)
Starring: Suresh Oberoi, Aruna Irani
- Fahsheel Open-Air**
Tu Nagin Main Sapera (Hindi)
Starring: Sumet Saigal, Sonika Gill
Al Fahsheel
New Year (Malayalam)
Al Jahra
Cyclone
Granada
(Closed)
Salaabkhat
Hanafi Al Abahabu (Arabic)
Al Jebel
Oru Vadakkan Veera Gadh (Malayalam)
Starring: Mammootty
Abnadi Drive-In
Al Raqqasab Al Siyasi (Arabic)

Scrabble tournament

July 20: Due to insistent ladies' demand, the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filchek) will sponsor an all female scrabble tournament. It will be held at the Kabayan Restaurant. The tournament is open to all Filipinas in Kuwait. It will be conducted in two stages. Registration is now open at Kabayan Restaurant. Deadline for submission of entries is Sunday, July 15, 1990. Trophies and valuable gift items await the winners. For more information call 2402405 — Liza.

Approb 'Who's Who' directory

THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is planning to publish a "Who's Who" directory of prominent Pakistani professionals and businessmen resident in Kuwait by January 1991. The directory aims at providing information about all Pakistani professionals and distinguished in their professions and businesses. Data forms are available free of cost from Approb executive board members and other locations. For further details contact Approb on Tel. No. 2425315, Fax 5323751, P.O. Box 3351, Salmiya, 22024 Salmiya, Kuwait. A copy of the directory will be given free of charge to all individuals whose names will appear in the directory.

L.I.L. will be holding their monthly big meeting on Monday

at Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom A, for a social evening, from 7 to 10 pm. For details contact Julie — Tel: 5391150. Pakistan Embassy
The Embassy of Pakistan will remain closed from July 2 to July 7 on the occasion of Eid Al Adha. Normal working will resume on July 7, according to an embassy press release.

Kapilku

July 19: Kapilku awards certificates of attendance to those who attended tailoring, bookkeeping, basic accounts and basic computer courses. The ceremony will be held at Al Araliya Restaurant, 8 pm. Philippine Ambassador Mauryag Mohammad Tamano

will be the chief guest. Buffet dinner, K.D 3 per person.

Proceeds will go towards the school fund. Those who attended self-improvement classes are asked to contact Sarah Macarimbang. Tel: 4839009, 4839889, 4843447. Mushaira
July 26: A mushaira (an evening of Urdu poetry) will be held at the home of Tahir Kadif. All Urdu poets are invited to take part. Start: 10 pm sharp.

At the Meridian

La Brasserie
Thai Corner: Saturday night. Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music. Chinese Corner: Monday night feature. Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bouzouki music. Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you. Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night. Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day. Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At Ramada Al Salam

Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight. Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight. Al Gandoul Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food. Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Mesallah Beach

Al Mubarakia: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine. Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band. Al Berdounah: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the SAS

Bisiretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner. Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet. Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the International

Fallaka: situated on the 19th floor, overlooking the coastline, it offers international cuisine; live entertainment in the evenings. Closed on Fridays. La Palma: offers buffet as well as a la carte. Family style brunch on Fridays. Kel: offers Japanese dining in an oriental atmosphere. La Patisserie: selection of snacks; pianist in the evenings. Al Wahab: ice cream promotion featuring different flavours, until August 1990.

At the Plaza:

Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu. Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks. Maroo Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

Theatre

Natya Bharati
Natya Bharati calls amateur dramatists to audition for their fourth Hindi production entitled "Badi Buaji" (The Big Aunt), a full-length comedy which will be performed in mid-October. Required a female lead, young smart lady, past stage experience would be an asset, two supporting actresses, character actors, a middle-aged man with a good personality and two young men in their early 30s. Genuinely interested people who plan to stay in Kuwait during summer holidays can contact 4880965 or 5623810 after 1.30 pm or 3721545 after 8.30 am for further details.

Goan drama

Sept. 21: Goan comedy king Bab Prince Jacob will present the comedy "Pergaum" (announcement) at Indian Arts Circle. The programme will be organised by Menino de Sarnordem. For details call Fernandes: 2435685; 2435688.

Music

Sur Sangeet
July 19: A musical evening will be presented by Sur Sangeet group to say farewell to outgoing Indian Second Secretary S.M. Mathur. Singers participating in the show include Valencia, Rosebud, Laxmi, Charlie, Shuhnaz Karim.



An eye for survival: Human numbers will grow faster than ever before during the 1990s, while environmental degradation reduces the earth's capacity to sustain human life. The 1990s is therefore a time for "looking further ahead than usual," says the United Nations Population Fund.

Illustration: Hector Catolico

Choices for a new century

"The next ten years will decide the shape of the 21st century. They may decide the future of the earth as a habitable planet for humans," said Dr Nafis Sadik, UNFPA executive director.

The 1990s will see greater increases in human numbers than any decade in history, according to the report. World population is increasing by three people every second — about a quarter of a million each day. Between 90 and 100 million people — roughly equivalent to the current population of Eastern Europe or Central America — will be added every year during the 1990s.

World population growth continues to be grossly out of balance, with more than 90 per cent of growth coming in the developing regions. By and large, the biggest increases will be the poorest countries — those by definition least equipped to meet the needs of the new arrivals and invest in the future.

Just a few years ago, in 1984, it seemed like the rate of population growth was slowing everywhere except Africa and parts of South Asia. The world's population seemed set to stabilise around 10.2 billion towards the end of the next century, the report continues.

Today, the situation looks less promising. Progress in reducing birth rates has been slower than expected. According to the latest United Nations projections, the world has overshoot the marker points of the 1984 most likely medium projection, and is now on course for an eventual total that will be closer to 11 billion than 10 billion.

In 15 countries — 13 of them in Africa — birthrates actually rose between 1960-65 and 1980-85. In another 23 the birth rate fell by less than two per cent.

If fertility reduction continues to be slower than projected, the mark could be missed yet again. In that case the world could be headed towards an eventual total of up to 14 billion people.

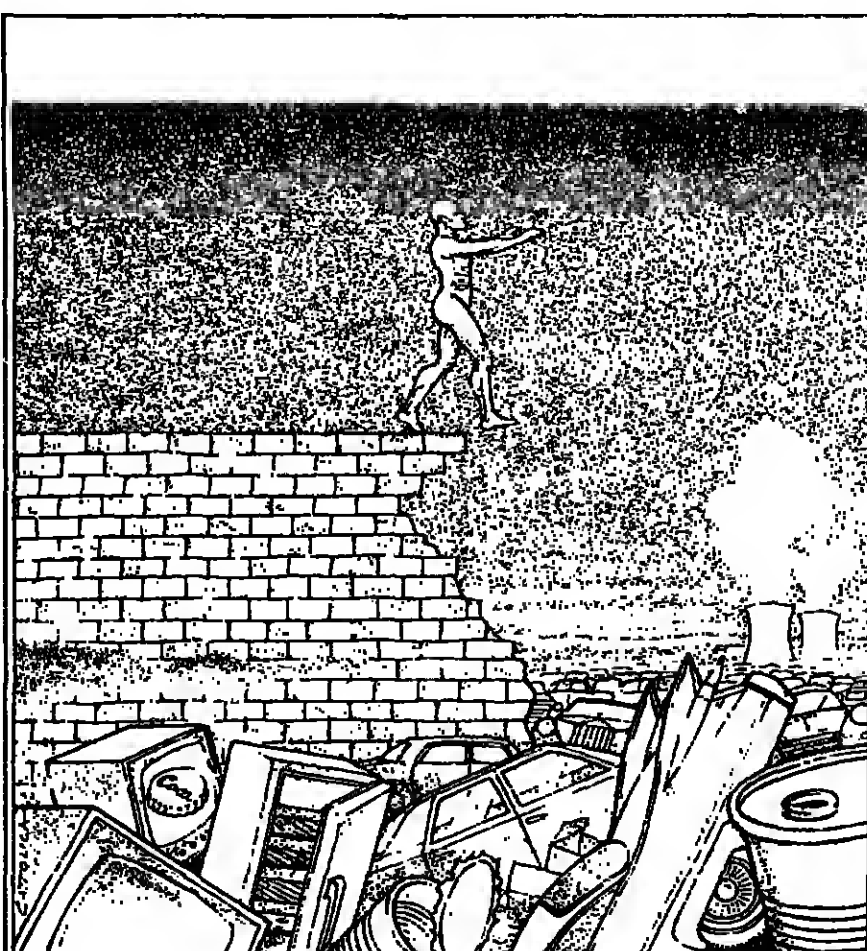
Of the present 5.3 billion people on earth, about a billion live in poverty. Can the earth meet even modest aspirations for this "bottom billion"? Let alone those of the better-off and their descendants, without irreparable damage to its life-support systems?" asks the report.

"Already our impact has been sufficient to degrade the soils of millions of hectares, to threaten the rain forests and the thousands of species they harbour, to thin the ozone layer, and to initiate a global warming whose full consequences cannot yet be calculated.

"By far the largest share of resources used and waste created is currently the responsibility of the 'top billion' people, those in industrialised countries. These are the countries overwhelmingly responsible for damage to the ozone layer and acidification, as well as for roughly two-thirds of global warming," the report states.

"However, in developing countries the combination of poverty and population growth among the 'bottom billion' is damaging the environment, notably through deforestation and land degradation. Deforestation is a prime source of carbon dioxide, one of the principal 'greenhouse gases' responsible for global warming. Rice paddies and domestic cattle — food suppliers for two billion people in developing countries — are also major producers of methane, another of the greenhouse gases."

The report says that developing countries are also doing their best to increase their share of industrial production and



Polluted plunges: The dream of industrial growth can soon turn into a nightmare of pollution. Eastern Europe's damaged environment serves as a grim warning to Third World countries — also under pressure to develop fast and cut safety corners.

Illustration: Hector Catolico

UNFPA "State of World Population" Report 1990



A critical balance: With growing environmental problems and poor family planning services, eastern Europe's problems mirror those of the developing world. Unless the region can clean up its act, there will be little chance of balancing its future development with the needs of its people.

Photo: (The Japan News)

UNFPA "State of World Population" Report 1990

consumption. Their share of industrial pollution is rising, and will continue to rise.

Developed or developing, the more people the more pollution: at any level of



Dr Nafis Sadik, executive director of United Nations Population Fund.

development larger numbers consumer more resources and produce more waste, according to the report.

The report states that redressing the balance demands action in three major areas:

- firstly, a shift to cleaner technologies, energy efficiency and resources conservation by all countries, but especially the richer quarter of the world's population;
- secondly, a direct and all-out attack on poverty itself;
- thirdly, it demands reductions in overall rates of population growth; "reducing population growth, especially in the countries with the highest rates of growth, will be a crucial part of any strategy of sustainable development," the report says.

"The quality of human life is inseparable from the quality of the environment. It is increasingly clear that both are inseparable from the question of human numbers and concentrations. One of the clearest lessons of the last two decades of work in population is that investments in human resource development — for example, improvements in women's status, access to education, health and the means of family planning — not only improve the quality of life, but are also the best and quickest way to reduce the population growth rates. By opening up options in the present, they open up options for the future."

The report argues that investment in human resources provides a firm base for rapid economic development, could have a significant impact on the environment crisis and is essential for global security. However, in the past it has often commanded a lower priority than industry, agriculture, or military expenditure.

"It is time for a new scale of priorities: there is no other sphere of development where investment can make such a large contribution to the options and quality of life, both in the present and in the future."

"At the start of the 1990s the choice must be to act decisively to slow population growth, attack poverty and protect the environment. The alternative is to hand on to our children a poisoned inheritance," the report says.

State of world population

Environment

A critical balance

ON THE edge of the charming university town of Pécs, in southern Hungary, two huge thermal-power stations stand shoulder to shoulder. Both burn polluting brown coal to produce electricity for this energy-hungry part of the country. Yet the contrast between the two plants is stark. The main stack on one plant belches out clouds of black smoke; the stack of the other emits next to nothing. The clean plant has been fitted with an efficient Swiss filter, which removes most particles and dust; the other has no pollution controls at all.

Hungary, like the rest of Eastern Europe, finds itself in the middle of convulsive changes. Behind the dramatic and sudden political, economic and social shifts sweeping through middle Europe looms the grim legacy of 40 years of resource exploitation and environmental neglect.

The region is scarred by ruined forests and watersheds eaten away by acid rain and other pollutants; rivers and lakes fouled almost beyond recovery by untreated municipal and industrial wastes; croplands contaminated with agricultural poisons and overdoses of fertilizers; and crumbling cities besieged by a virulent assortment of airborne chemicals generated by outdated smelterstack industries and vehicles. Worse still, the health of millions of East Europeans has been imperilled by the neglect of basic environmental safeguards in the rush towards industrial growth.

"Where does the destruction of our natural environment end?" laments a member of Poland's Ecological Club. "We are killing our heritage and pillaging our children's future."

The evidence can be seen all over the region.

● The health of 2.6 million people in the Silesian industrial zone in southwest Poland is endangered by industrial filth. The queen of Polish rivers, the Vistula, is so choked full of pollutants that its waters are unfit even for industrial use along 80 per cent of its total length.

● In Hungary every seventeenth death and every twenty-fourth disability is attributed directly or indirectly to air pollution.

● In the Czechoslovakian town of Bratislava, cancers have risen by a third, heart complaints by 40 per cent, infant mortality by two-thirds and miscarriages by half since 1970, due to deadly air pollutants from nearby industries.

● In just one year, 1986, over 88,000 children and 63,000 adults in the Romanian town of Giurgiu were treated for lung diseases brought on by rampant air pollution.

Birth rates in East Europe have stagnated for 30 years, despite a widespread lack of family planning services. Hungary's population is actually falling by about 7,000 a year, according to this year's State of World Population Report from the United Nations Population Fund.

Birth rates are low all over the industrialised world. But the explanation in affluent Western Europe has been that children are expensive and parents have other things to do with their money. For East Europe, continued low birth rates might be an expression of deep pessimism about the future, a pessimism brought on partly by polluted air and poisoned water, vanishing forests and crumbling towns.

East Europe has a hard road ahead. In attempts to modernise their stumbling economies, environmentalists fear that the new governments in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and East Germany may succumb to short-cuts, leaving environmental protection

unattended. Despite the proliferation of "green movements" in Eastern Europe over the past two years — there are now over 200 of them in Poland alone — the majority remain outside the mainstream of political change. There is also a real possibility that green movements will be splintered by the political parties that are beginning to take form across the landscape of this region, points out Dr Frank Carter, a geographer at University College, London. Hopefully some of them at least will be receptive to green pressure.

That may be over-optimistic. If the history of industrialisation in the West is any yardstick, then Eastern Europe is in for a period of restructuring that will still see high pollution levels and a further deterioration for the environment. It may well get worse before it gets better.

One green activist, who is determined not to let this happen is Janos Vargha, co-founder of the Danube Circle and one of Hungary's most outspoken environmentalists. He led the coalition of citizens' action committees and green groups which successfully halted the construction of two controversial dams on the Danube. "No matter which political party is in power in this country, they will have to listen to us," says Vargha.

Young people, angry at what their parents have wrought, may be the counter-balance to rapid — and polluting — industrial development. "We are insisting that economic growth be tempered by improvements in our health and living standards," insists a member of Czechoslovakia's Civic Forum.

Public health services, and family planning in particular, have been neglected. Abortion, the last resort in more fortunate countries, has become the substitute for family planning in much of Eastern Europe. The situation was probably worst in Romania under the Ceausescu regime, where family planning was banned entirely. Women were examined regularly for signs of pregnancy and were forced to go through with it whether they wanted to or not. Elsewhere in East Europe, though family planning was legal, services were hard to find.

A first step in improving public health (and morale) would be to make basic family planning services as easily available as they are in Western Europe.

Not that East Europe suffers from rampant population growth — quite the opposite. East Europe's population problems are of a different kind. As economies are re-jigged, unemployment will be one of the by-products. At the same time, Eastern Europe has a very high proportion of elderly people — almost a quarter of the population are over 60 — and a shrinking base of working-age people to support them. But a curious side-effect of easier contraception might be to encourage a temporary "baby boom" as people are confident of their power to prevent accidental pregnancies take the decision to have the children they want.

For the rest of the world Eastern Europe's environmental and population problems might serve as an object lesson in how not to go about industrial development. Whatever their problems of population growth, developing countries must be hoping to find a better way to ease the pressure. In the meantime, they might do worse than observe what industrialisation with total neglect of environmental safety can do to a nation's health.

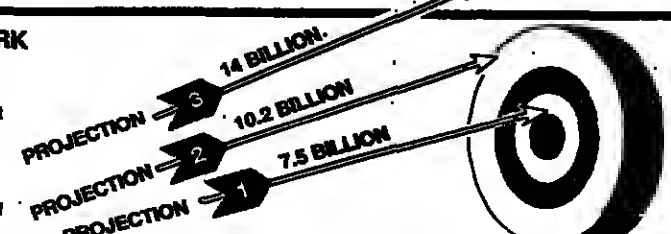
With growing environmental problems and poor family planning services, Eastern Europe's problems mirror those of the developing world. Unless the region can clean up its act, there will be little chance of balancing its future development with the needs of its people.

A crucial balance

The world's population is growing at the rate of three people per second — a quarter of a million people a day. This is faster than ever before. But can the earth's damaged environment carry such numbers into the 1990s and beyond? How can we protect the planet and keep open the options for future generations?

OVERSHOOTING THE MARK

There are now 5.3 billion people in the world. Recent predictions that global population would stabilise at around 10.2 billion now seem too low — 11 billion seems more likely. And if the use of family planning does not increase as expected the world could be headed for a total of 14 billion.

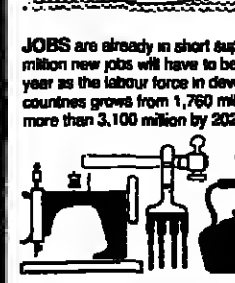


RACE AGAINST RESOURCES

FOOD PRODUCTION is not keeping pace with population growth. Per capita food production fell in 25 out of 43 African countries in 1987-88 and in 17 out of 23 in Latin America.



LAND is the main source of livelihood for 80% of people in developing countries. But 38 countries with a population of 400 million may not be able to feed their people from their own lands by the year 2000.

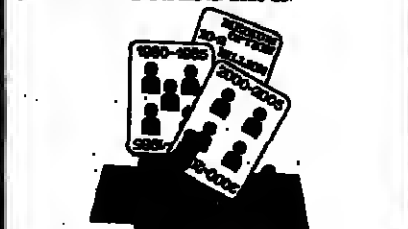


The rise of MEGA-CITIES leads to acute housing shortages, especially in developing countries. The world's urban population is set to increase from 1,284 million today to 4,050 million in 2025.

CHOICES

More family planning is one way of keeping open the options for the future. Reducing the rate of population growth gives the earth a better chance of sustaining its inhabitants through the 1990s — and beyond.

PROJECTION 2 — To achieve the MEDIUM PROJECTION (10.2 billion) women in developing countries will have to reduce the number of children they bear from an average of 4.2 children (1980-85 figure) to 3.2 for the period 2000-05 and to 2.3 for 2020-25.



PROJECTION 1 — To achieve the LOW PROJECTION (7.5 billion) women in developing countries would have to reduce the average number of children they bear to just 2.7 for the period 2000-05 and 1.9 for 2020-25.



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Pushing the limits: "The quality of human life is inseparable from the quality of the environment", says this year's State of World Population Report. But the quality of life for future generations depends on us. To keep their options open we must reduce population growth — and protect our planet.

Illustration: Korky Paul

Pushing the limits

Paul Harrison explains how better family planning can reduce the effects of global warming and keep open the options for the future.

THE 1990s will see the fastest growth in human numbers in all history. At present the world's population is increasing by three people a second — about a quarter of a million every day. Some 96 million people — an extra Thailand and Korea — will be added every year; a whole extra China over the decade.

Just a few years ago, it seemed as if the rate of growth was slowing almost everywhere. The world's population seemed set to stabilise around 10.2 billion towards the end of the next century.

The situation now looks less promising, as the State of World Population 1990, just published by the United Nations Population Fund, reveals.

Progress in reducing birth rates was slower than expected. Countries which had substantially reduced their birth rates in the late 1960s and early 1970s, stalled in their progress. And in some countries birth rates actually rose in the two decades up to 1985.

These setbacks forced the United Nations to reassess the population outlook. In 1986, it projected that the world would house 6,122 million people by the end of the century. Now it has had to raise that figure to 6,251 million — an extra 129 million added to the total. Looking further ahead, to 2025, the UN now expects 8,467 million people — 200 million more than it predicted five years ago.

The world is now on course for reaching a stable population, sometime towards the end of the next century, of closer to 11 billion than 10 billion. Indeed, if future progress in cutting birth rates is not achieved we would be headed towards a total of up to 14 billion people.

This is serious — especially in view of a world food crisis which is creeping upon us unnoticed. During the 1980s, food production has lost ground to population in many countries. In Africa, 25 countries out of 43 experienced a drop in per capita cereal production. And Latin America's performance was even worse: 17 countries out of 23 suffered a decline.

Today, the global food situation looks shakier than at any time in the past 15 years. We can no longer rely on automatic harvest increases every year. World food security now depends on the performance of North American farmers, and that depends on a global weather system that is increasingly unstable. Following the drought-hit US harvest of 1988, world cereal stocks dropped from 24 per cent of global consumption in 1986-87 to a dangerously low 17 per cent. Meanwhile, many countries are running out of reserves of good cropland. The best and most accessible land is already in use. As a result the area of land available per person declined at the rate of 1.9 per cent during the 1980s.

The human race now appears to be pushing against new limits of growth. Our numbers, our lifestyles and our technologies have reached the stage where destruction of the environment has reached dangerous levels. We are seeing through the branch that is holding us up and if we carry on as before, it may break and bring us crashing down with it.

Not everyone admits that population plays any role in environmental damage. Soil erosion is often blamed on the poverty of the South, while damage to tropical forests, oceans and climate are laid at the door of affluence in the North.

The real situation is more complex. Two factors may decide how much damage we do per person to our environment. One is our lifestyle

Overheated globe

Population growth and industrial pollution are doing increasing damage to the environment. If both continue to grow unchecked, the effects could be catastrophic.

WARMING

By the middle of the next century average world temperatures will rise by 1.5-2.8 degrees C. The world will be hotter than at any time during the previous 120,000 years.

Melting ice and thermal expansion may cause the sea level to rise by up to 70cm by the middle of the 21st century, causing serious flooding in low-lying areas. A 50-centimetre sea level rise would displace 16% of Egypt's population. Most of the Republic of the Maldives would disappear — the islands' highest point is less than 2 metres above sea level.



GREENHOUSE GASES

Five gases are responsible for the bulk of global warming. The faster population grows the hotter the world will get.

LOW LEVEL OZONE produced by car exhausts, accounts for 8% of global warming.

CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS account for 20% of warming. Used in refrigeration and air conditioning, aerosols, packaging.

NITROUS OXIDE emitted by human excrement and by the breakdown of nitrogen fertilizers.

METHANE accounts for 15% of the warming effect. Two-thirds of emissions are from human-made sources. Half of these come from decomposition in irrigated land and from the guts of livestock.

CARBON DIOXIDE is responsible for around half of global warming, caused by the burning of forests and fossil fuels.

Graphic: Chris Jeffery

THE GREAT POLLUTERS

Industrialized countries do most damage to the environment...

Industrialized countries account for 5/6 of world CO₂ use and 3-4 of fossil fuel use.

The average person in the industrialized world adds 3.2 tonnes of carbon each year to the atmosphere — almost four times the level added by the average Third World resident.

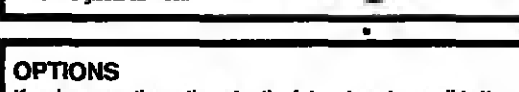
Pollution in the Katowice region of Poland has rendered inedible 90% of fruits and vegetables. In Hungary one in 17 people dies from pollution.

But developing countries are catching up...

Annual carbon dioxide output from the destruction of forests, occurring mainly in the Third World, almost doubled between 1950 and 1980-85. And by 2025 developing countries will be emitting 16.5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide annually — three times their present level.

Emissions from industrial sources in the Third World rose 16-fold between 1950 and 1980-85.

The number of cars in the world is set to grow from 400 million today to 700 million over the next 20 years. Much of that growth will occur in the developing world which currently owns only 12% of the global car fleet.



OPTIONS

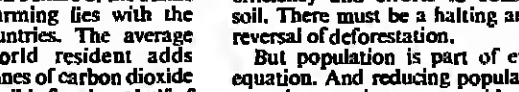
Keeping open the options for the future is only possible if we:

Use energy more efficiently.

Shift from fossil fuels (currently supplying 78% of world energy needs) to renewable sources such as wind, geothermal and solar.

Slow down population growth.

Slow down deforestation and so cut carbon dioxide emissions by 25%.



and how much we consume. The other is the kind of technology we use and how much damage or waste it creates. But population decides how many persons there are — and this is what fixes the total level of damage.

Population growth is responsible for a far greater share of deforestation, for example, than commercial logging or ranching. Much of the forest cleared in developing countries becomes cropland for growing populations that cannot be accommodated on existing farmland. These populations may be responsible for more than 85 per cent of the loss of forest cover.

Of course poverty is partly to blame for soil erosion: poor peasants cannot afford fertilizers or the conservation measures needed for protecting the soil. But population growth has its own effect, forcing farmers to exhaust the soil or to use marginal land. And unchecked soil erosion could cause a drop of nearly 30 per cent in food production from rain-fed cropland. It is, clearly, a direct threat to human life in developing countries.

Climate change is a threat to human life across the globe. The nature of that threat is now well known. Most projections expect that by the middle of the next century average world temperatures will rise by up to 2.8 degrees Celsius. No previous climate shift in earth history has happened so swiftly.

As ecological zones shift, the area of forest cover will decline. Sea-level rises could lead to disastrous flooding of many ports and deltas, displacing, for example, as much as 10 per cent of Bangladesh's population or 16 per cent of Egypt's. Rainfall in mid-latitudes may decrease, hitting

the world's chief source of surplus grain, the North American mid-west.

So far the lion's share of the blame for global warming lies with the developed countries. The average developed world resident adds around 3.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide (the gas responsible for about half of global warming) each year to the atmosphere, almost four times the level added by each Third World dweller.

But this situation has been changing. The South's emissions of greenhouse gases has been growing. Annual carbon dioxide output from trees burnt in deforestation almost tripled between 1950 and 1980-85. Emissions from industrial sources in the Third World rose by almost 16 times.

As developing countries industrialise, lifestyles and technologies will come to resemble those of the North. The world car population, for example, is projected to grow from its present 400 million to 700 million over the next twenty years — twice as fast as the human population. Much of that growth will occur in the South which currently owns only 12 per cent of the world car fleet. South Korea alone adds 600,000 cars to its roads every year. If this trends and population growth continue, developing countries will be emitting 16.5 billion tonnes of carbon annually by 2025 — over four times as much as developed countries today.

Clearly many lines of action are called for to save the environment for future generations. Changes in lifestyles will be needed: reductions in levels of consumption; and wastage — in the North; increases in

recycling. Changes in technology will include improvements in energy efficiency and efforts to conserve soil. There must be a halting and a reversal of deforestation.

But population is part of every equation. And reducing population growth can make a very considerable contribution.

The United Nations has made a "low" projection of future population, based on what would happen if birth rates declined faster. On this projection there would be only 7,590 million people in the world by the year 2025 — 876 million fewer than the more likely medium projection.

If this low projection could be achieved, rather than the medium one, it would have the same impact on cutting down carbon dioxide output as halving deforestation. It would reduce pressure on soil and water resources and make it easier to provide improved education and health services.

And it can be done. Many countries, including Tunisia, Sri Lanka, Mexico or Costa Rica, have achieved the kind of birth-rate drops that would be required over the next three decades. A few, like Cuba, or China, have achieved as much in half the time.

To bring this off will demand a new priority for family planning and population control programmes to increase interest in smaller families. This must involve improvements in health and education and the status of women.

All of these efforts increase the options of present generations and help to reduce present poverty. Equally important, they keep open options for future generations.

Women at the centre

Unless women have control over their own lives and fertility, family planning goals will not be reached — and environmental damage will hit danger level, says this year's State of World Population Report from the United Nations Population Fund. But there are major obstacles that get between women and their human rights.

Sandra Necchi talks to a woman in Brazil who has planned her life and family — on her own terms.



Poor uneducated women have most children and the heaviest workload. Improving the rights of women is crucial if family planning programmes are to succeed.

World population is growing faster than ever. And the Earth's dirty and damaged environment is overheating. How much further can the human race push its luck?

A woman's choice

MARILENE DE FREITAS is a strong-minded woman living in the Baixada Fluminense, a working-class suburb of Rio de Janeiro. She has been a hotel receptionist and a demonstrator of products in a department store.

At the age of 35, however, she finds it harder to get employment. Brazilian employers are partial to younger — and childless — women. Many women her age have the supposed security of marriage. Marilene however has deliberately chosen to remain a single mother, bringing up her two sons, Denis, 11 and Marcos, four. And she has started up a group of neighbourhood women who meet to discuss the controversial issue of pregnancy, sex, and birth control.

Marilene appears conventional. She likes to dress well and never leaves the house without make-up. But looks can deceive. Marilene has a frankness and originality that often gets her into trouble — especially with her family, who view her as something of a rebel.

"My parents had always assumed that I would marry and have several children," she explains. "My mother had nine. Her mother had ten. At 17, I saw three girlfriends marry and start large families. By the time I was 20, my sister and all my friends were married or were about to be married. Today, all of them have at least four children and a few have more. My cousin, for example, has nine children. She is younger than I, but looks like 50. One day she told me why she had had so many children. 'To keep my husband,' she said. 'I have nothing else in life.'"

At this point Marilene's voice rises in irritation. "I don't like to see her very often because she makes me angry. I know I should have more understanding, but I hate this ignorance. I grew up in it. I knew nothing about sex until the first time I was with a man. It took a long time to forgive my mother for never telling me."

She pauses, runs her painted fingernails through her dark curling hair. "I always loved children, of course. But early in life I knew I wanted to be more than a mother. I wanted time for myself, to work, to learn about the world, to enjoy life as I could."

"Anyway, I got to learn about family planning after seeing commercials on television a few years ago. Then I heard that they were running a free class at the women's health centre in Rio, and decided to go. My father said that

if I went I would become as bad as a prostitute. I told him that he had raised me to be ignorant and I had to undo the damage he had done. He slapped my face. But, I went anyway."

"At the class we learned about different methods of birth control. I learned that the women who had most children were the poorest and least educated. And I learned about the rate of illness and death among women in Brazil who knew little about contraception or health care during pregnancy. It was then that I decided to try and start a group here with my neighbours where we could at least talk about these issues."

Marilene's independence has its price. She cannot live in the more spacious family home — as her brothers do. Instead she shares cramped quarters in a shanty-town dwelling with her children.

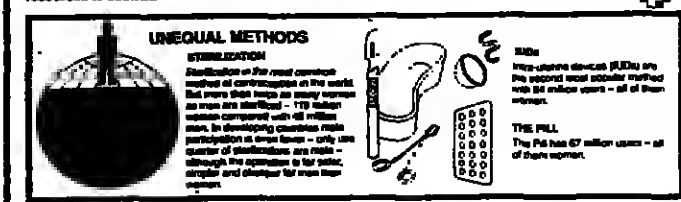
Four-year-old Marcos comes into the room — and then goes out again to play with his brother and their pet rabbit in the yard. "My first son was not planned," explains Marilene. "But my second was. Raising children is never easy when you are poor. But as I am single and there are only two of them I can give them plenty of care and attention. My boys do not have distended stomachs, bad teeth or diarrhoea like so many children around here."

"My family and my friends still tell me I should marry so my two boys can have a father and that I should have a daughter. I reply that they should use birth-control, that they should think of the costs, not just financial but physical and psychological of raising so many children. But people are so fixed in their attitudes. A man who lives near me, an old boyfriend, wants to live with me and is determined to have a child with me. Last week another man — someone I think of as a friend only — asked me to marry him so that we could have children together. I told him two was enough for me. He said that was why everyone thought I was 'loose'."

She leans forward, her green eyes brightening. "The truth is, I am really better off as I am — with a small family. I have continued to work at the women's centre and they sometimes pay me to work there as a teacher. They urged me to complete my high school education and I finished last year. I see my life as independent — I raise my children as I wish. I now want to take a computer course and am arranging childcare for my boys so that I can study."

Men must share responsibility

Men are often ignored in family planning campaigns. It is left to the women to take responsibility for 'housekeeping'. But unless men can be encouraged to change their attitudes — and behaviour — population is likely to continue growing too fast for the earth's resources to sustain.



Only in the early 1970s did things change. The Thai government undertook to reduce the population growth rate by 0.5 percentage points a year. It now became clear that large poverty might be alleviated by reducing family size.

Thousands of village family planning volunteers were mobilised. And the campaign worked: birth-rates more than halved during the course of the next 15 years.

Today, nearly 70 per cent of married couples practice family planning and 95 per cent of couples do not want more than two children. Most cite economic reasons for their choice.

This success has made Thailand a family planning model for other developing countries. But it is women who can take the credit. Men remain a bastion of traditional resistance. In 1987, for example, 68 per cent of women were practising some form of contraception compared with only seven per cent of men.

The figures are skewed towards women — and not only in Thailand — partly because most contraceptive methods are designed for women. Equally important, however, is attitude. Whereas boys are coddled by most Thai parents, girls are taught from a young age to take responsibility. As adults, too, there is little incentive for Thai males to accept responsibility for family planning. Many continue to view family planning as exclusively a woman's concern.

When Thai girls grow up, however, they play a more active economic role in the family and in society as a whole than do their counterparts in many other societies. The main thing Thailand's family planning effort has going for it, according to its chief architect Mechai Viravudhya, is "the relatively strong personality of the Thai women."

"The men don't get in the way of women. That's probably been their most important role," says Mechai. "Even if there were a pill available to men, the women would still use their own pill because they wouldn't trust the men to use it."

It's tempting simply to write off family planning campaigns aimed at men and to direct resources at women, where they can be more effective. But this year's State of

THAI men have long played a central role in their country's family planning effort — as obstacles.

During the 1930s and 1940s in Thailand, under the dictatorship of Plaek Pibulsongkram, awards were given out on Mother's Day to women with large families. These pro-natalist policies, which held sway for decades, were driven by the notion that a large population was needed to build up military strength.

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This success has made Thailand a family planning model for other developing countries. But it is women who can take the credit. Men remain a bastion of traditional resistance. In 1987, for example, 68 per cent of women were practising some form of contraception compared with only seven per cent of men.

The figures are skewed towards women — and not only in Thailand — partly because most contraceptive methods are designed for women. Equally important, however, is attitude. Whereas boys are coddled by most Thai parents, girls are taught from a young age to take responsibility. As adults, too, there is little incentive for Thai males to accept responsibility for family planning. Many continue to view family planning as exclusively a woman's concern.

When Thai girls grow up, however, they play a more active economic role in the family and in society as a whole than do their counterparts in many other societies. The main thing Thailand's family planning effort has going for it, according to its chief architect Mechai Viravudhya, is "the relatively strong personality of the Thai women."

"The men don't get in the way of women. That's probably been their most important role," says Mechai. "Even if there were a pill available to men, the women would still use their own pill because they wouldn't trust the men to use it."

It's tempting simply to write off family planning campaigns aimed at men and to direct resources at women, where they can be more effective. But this year's State of

World Population Report, just released by the United Nations Population Fund, states quite clearly that more men must get involved in family planning if population growth is not to overwhelm the earth's resources. For world population to stabilise at 11 billion by the end of the next century, contraceptive use will have to increase worldwide by 64 per cent within the next 10 years. This will only be possible if men take a more responsible attitude.

Even Thailand, with its dramatically reduced birth-rate, has an extra one million new mouths to feed each year. And the number of women of reproductive age is increasing from seven million to ten million over the next few years.

However, Thai family planning agencies already face a shortage of contraceptive materials and other resources. This is why the cheapest and most reliable form of contraception of all — the vasectomy or male sterilisation — is being promoted. Vasectomy takes 15 minutes, costs half as much as female sterilisation — and is less likely to cause side-effects.

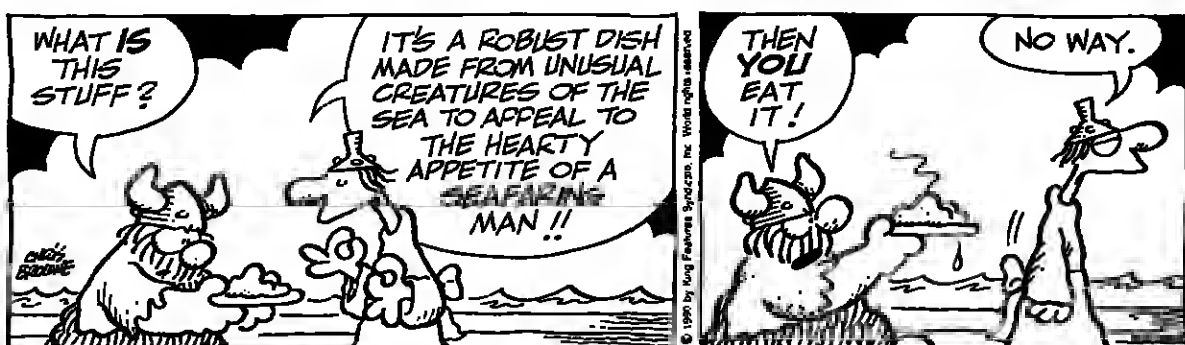
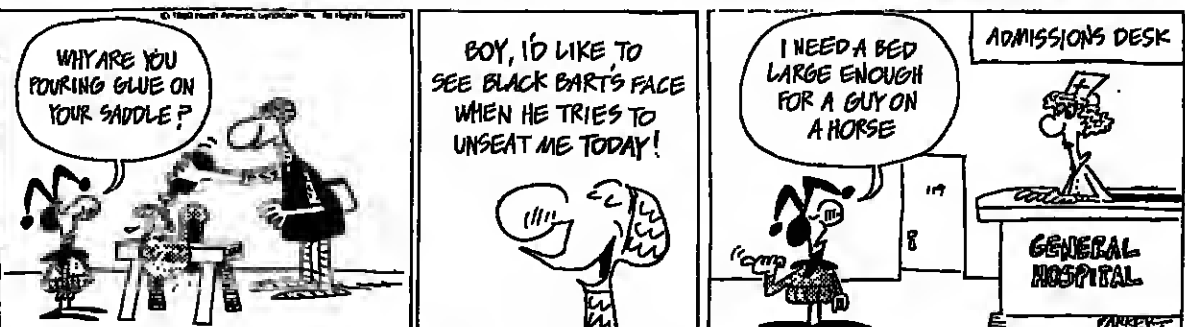
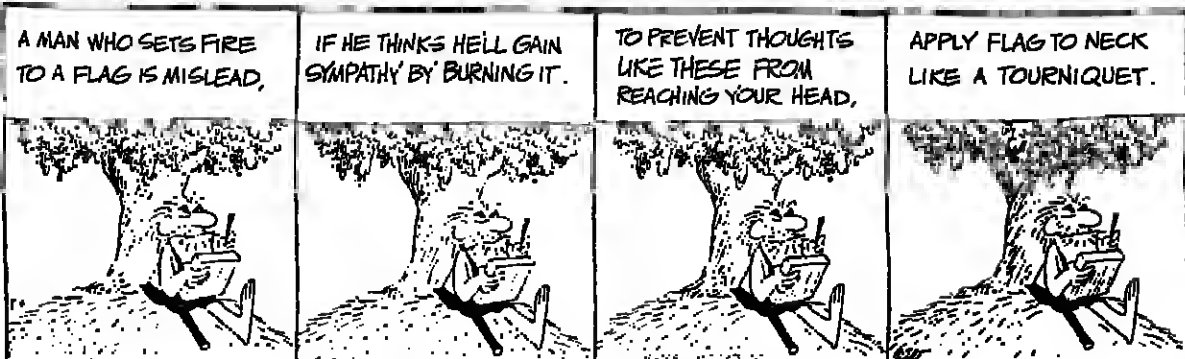
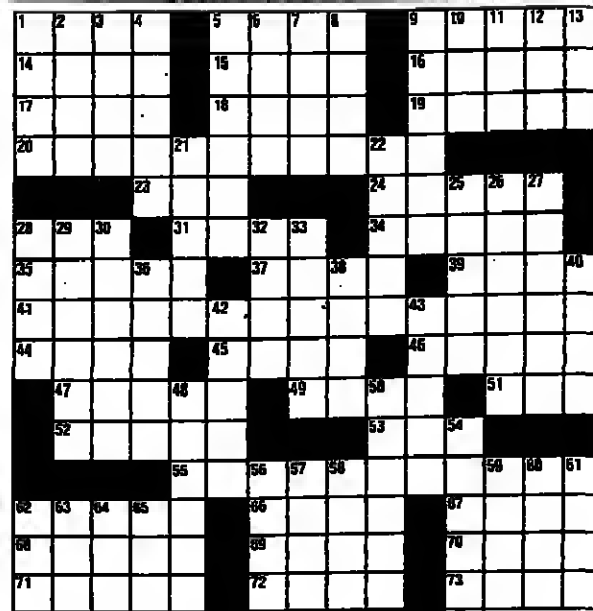
Mechai has already given Thailand a certain notoriety by staging mass vasectomy fairs each year on the birthday of Thailand's king. In 1987, a record was set when more than 2,000 men showed up at a field next to the royal palace for the free operation.

Despite the fanfare, however, far fewer men than women opt to be sterilised. The total number of men sterilised in 1987 was 16,447. The figure for women that same year was close to 140,000.

"Men don't do it (have a vasectomy) because they're not the ones to get pregnant," says Patama Bhromrut, the Ministry of Public Health's senior family planning promotion specialist.

Communication is another problem. Women can find out about female sterilisation during pregnancy from medical personnel or village midwives. But men retain their traditional attitudes and superstitions. A recent survey in Thailand's northeast showed that men were worried about rumours linking between the operation and impotency, poor health and work disability.

Now the Thai Association for Voluntary Sterilisation is seeking to remove some of these prejudices and to enlighten men. One thing they have discovered is that men need support to go ahead with the operation — and not have second thoughts about it later. Most who had the operation were influenced by people they respected or trusted, like community leaders or friends or entertainers who had had the operation themselves. "Men should be motivated to like birth control," the survey concludes.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Gen. Bradley
 - Slash
 - Reflection
 - Unsuited
 - Architectural border
 - Kind of energy
 - "Pictures" Exhibition
 - Role in Gluck's "Orfeo ed Euridice"
 - "Swan Lake" temptress
 - Philadelphia tourist attraction
 - Minute
 - Notions
 - Rain aftermath
 - Approach
 - 100 to a pound
 - Tale of Troy
 - Karate move
 - Small fry
 - Lady from France
 - Incline
 - Majors and Remick
 - Seabirds
 - Civil War general
 - Rock's partner
 - Harden
 - To the point
 - de France
 - Patriotic purchase: 1915-20
 - Ermine
 - Newspaper notice, for short
 - Theater award
 - Dutch cheese
 - Nack part
 - Not a soul
 - Ubiquitous bags
 - Something unique
 - Soma votes
- DOWN**
- October birthstone
 - Maestro
 - Ricardo
 - Spirited horse
 - Extend the subscription
 - Chin tuit
 - Santa feature
 - Slovenly
 - Not there
 - "Liebestod" singer
 - Trendy
 - Clay, later
 - Four qts.
 - Before, poetically
 - All in, in Amiens
 - Painter Fre
 - Flippo
 - Stage direction
 - Oaks' sources
 - Bench
 - Fog
 - Last syllable
 - Used the phone
 - Lotion
 - Ingredient
 - Allude, with "no"
 - Rose oil
 - As well
 - Method: Abbr.
 - Fragrant resin
 - Santa feature
 - Alluvial plains
 - Waste misplaced
 - Black wood
 - Pro — publico: for the public good
 - Israeli diplomat
 - Metura
 - Clarinet's cousin
 - Actress Foch
 - Ruby and Sandra
 - NCO
 - Furthermore
 - Ump's decision
 - Lemon additive

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

IDAHO HUGIE SOAP
NAMUR ALES ERMA
GRANDSLAMS RIOS
TEETH ADVENT
SPHERES SYRINGA
THERES BISSET
OIL HACION WEAVER
ILLS WHITE STEIN
COSTS ASONG LINO
CHEASE DEVID
PRAIRIE FINANCE
SENDER GAVETT
ASKE SNAKERTIVER
LEON ATLLI ASOLA
MENT CHAR LEWIS

GOREN BRIDGEBY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
A MATTER OF LOGIC

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A Q 9 5 3 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 8 4
 ♣ A J 9 5

EAST
 ♠ 7
 ♥ 4
 ♦ K 9 6 5 2
 ♣ K 7 6 4 3

SOUTH
 ♠ K 10
 ♥ A K J 10 9 8 6
 ♦ A 7 3
 ♣ 10

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 4 ♥ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
 5 ♥ Pass 6 ♥ Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦
 It is the simplicity and logic of bridge that is its beauty. As Hercule Poirot might have said: "A little exercise of the gray cells is all the situation requires."

North was perhaps a trifle ambitious in driving to slam with only a singleton trump, but he certainly had full value in the black suits. The hidden asset was a partner who was an excellent dummy player.

West led the queen of diamonds,

taken by the ace. Declarer's initial plan was to draw two rounds of trumps and, if the queen did not drop, abandon trumps in favor of trying to get two quick discards on the spade suit. So he cashed the king and ace of trumps, but had to go back to the drawing board when East discarded a club on the second round.

Now it would no longer help if three rounds of spades went through. West would be able to ruff the fourth round with a low trump and the queen of trumps would be the setting trick.

If the slam was going to succeed, West would have to hold four spades! Once declarer came to that conclusion, the rest was easy.

Declarer cashed the king of spades and ran the ten! When East showed out on the second round, it was all over. Dummy was entered with the ace of clubs and two diamonds were discarded on the ace and queen of spades as West followed helplessly. Declarer came to hand with a club ruffed high, forced out the queen of hearts, ruffed the return, drew the last trump and claimed a beautifully played slam.

No compound squeeze, no Devil's Coup, no Winkle. Just sheer poetry.



"My ex-husband said he'd pay for our wedding and the honeymoon."

YOUR STARS

<p>Aries March 21 - April 20</p> <p>Make sure that your eyes are not larger than your stomach. Try to see reason and do not allow your emotions to run away with you. Do not put all your money on one horse. Be moderate.</p>	<p>Cancer June 21 - July 20</p> <p>Adopt a diet which does not entail becoming too fat or thin. Your financial position is not all you would like it to be and your expenditure needs to be curbed. Make sure you do not lose sight of your objectives. Be sincere.</p>	<p>Libra Sept. 23 - Oct. 22</p> <p>Avoid confusing what is with what you would like to be. Leave yourself with more room for manoeuvre and take other people's views into account before deciding on what to do. Do not neglect your personal appearance. Be generous.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec. 21 - Jan. 19</p> <p>However, old you are try not to lose your sense of wonder and preserve so element of adventurousness. Take care you do not jump to conclusions and do not act on impulse. Do not permit your attention to be diverted from what you are engaged upon.</p>
<p>Taurus April 21 - May 20</p> <p>Something you had expected to happen will not and you will have to make a few adjustments accordingly. Do all you can to ensure that harmony with your partner is maintained. Take no risks with your health or safety. Be sensible.</p>	<p>Leo July 21 - Aug. 21</p> <p>Try to look beneath the surface, not all is what it appears to be. You should think once again before making up your mind. Remember that there just is not time to do everything you would like to do, so choose carefully. Be frank.</p>	<p>Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 22</p> <p>You are liable to feel listless, so try to pull yourself up by your own bootstraps. Do not over your shoulder, instead pay more attention to what you yourself are doing. Do not expect to have everything your own way. Be fair.</p>	<p>Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 19</p> <p>A little more goodwill you will enable you to avoid getting into an argument. Do not spend so much time trying to prove how much cleverer you are than others; if you are it will show. Also think more of others, less of yourself. Be reliable.</p>
<p>Gemini May 21 - June 20</p> <p>You must avoid believing that what you would like to be is. You are all too likely to chase phantoms and should try to look on the practical side. Do not do anything that would obviously be bad for your health. Be tactful.</p>	<p>Virgo Aug. 23 - Sept. 22</p> <p>Now is a good time to make a few changes but do deliberate upon them carefully first. There is no point in changing just for the sake of something new and different. Mistakes are more likely, made by others as well as you, and you should be on the lookout for them.</p>	<p>Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 22</p> <p>You will be able to do what you enjoy doing but must not entirely neglect what you do not. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 27. You are all too liable to lose things and must do your best to combat the tendency.</p>	<p>Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20</p> <p>You are too old for some things, but not by any means for all things — unless you think you are. You should have the courage of your convictions, but should also have the liability to change your opinions. And do give others their due. Be pertinent.</p>



"I can hear the sea!"



"I can't read your writing!"

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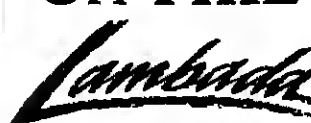
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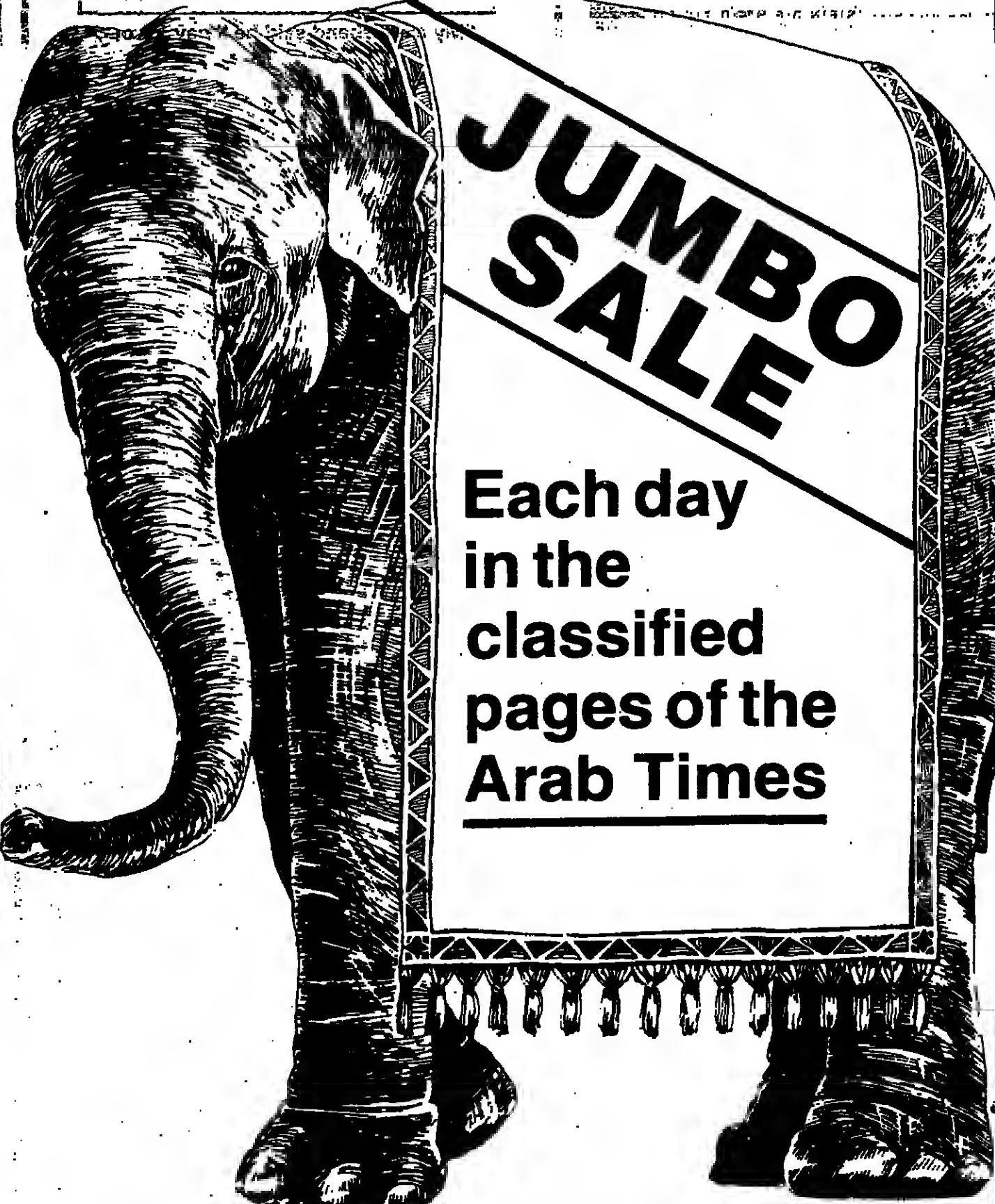
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SPORTS

Argentines turn to superstition for victory over West Germany

BUENOS AIRES, July 6, (Reuters): Not content with the conviction that God is on their side, Argentines are relying on superstitious rituals to ensure their team's victory in Sunday's World Cup soccer final against West Germany.

Superstition among sportsmen —

from using good luck charms to not shaving — is notorious. But even President Carlos Menem admits to having his rituals.

"I always wear the same tie and the same clothes," said Menem after Tuesday's semifinal penalty shoot-out victory over Italy.

Since returning from Italy where he watched Argentina's opening game, in which the title holders lost 1-0 to Cameroon, Menem has followed the matches on a giant screen in the Casa Rosada (Pink House) Government House.

In a suburb of Buenos Aires an

embarrassed housewife, who admitted to her ritual on condition she was not named, described her pre-match antics.

"I always walk twice clockwise and twice anti-clockwise around my chair before the start of a game."

Most Argentines admit their team,

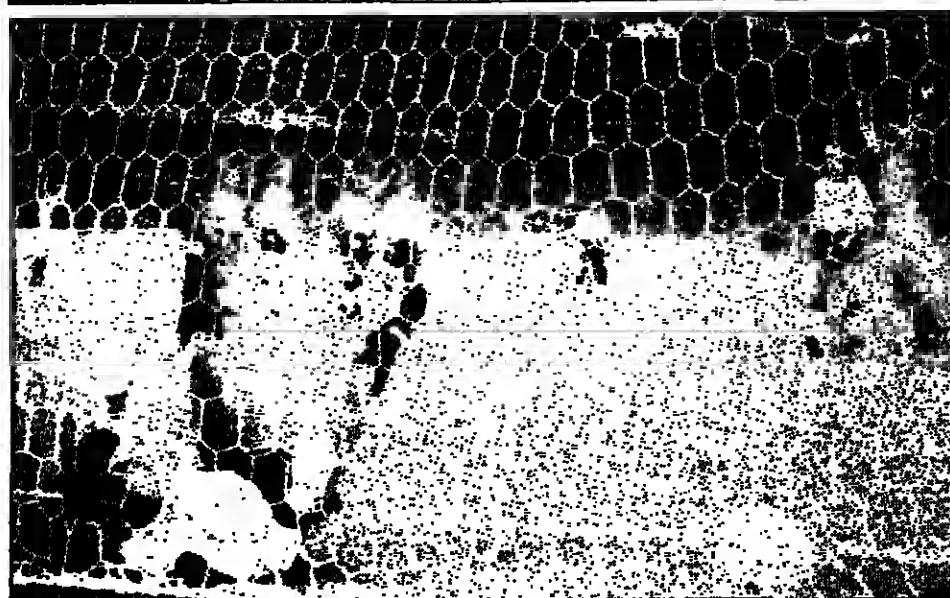
which won the World Cup in Mexico four years ago and as hosts in 1978, have had their share of luck in Italy, particularly in the 1-0 win over Brazil.

After that match newspapers ran banner headlines proclaiming "God is an Argentine," recalling that it was the "Mano de Dios," (Hand of God)

which enabled captain Diego Maradona to score the disputed goal in the 2-1 win over England in the 1986 quarterfinals.

The staunchly Roman Catholic Argentines often invoke their favourite saints to help their team's

efforts. Effigies of the Virgin Mary are placed on top of TV sets alongside those of Ceferino Namuncura, the son of an Indian chieftain who embraced Catholicism in the 19th century and has a saint-like status among the Argentine poor.



Shilton lies on his back as he watches the ball roll into the net. (Reuters wirephoto)



Illgner makes a fool save from a shot by England's Stuart Pearce. (Reuters wirephoto)



Linecker kicks the ball past W. Germany's Thomas Haessler for the equaliser. (Reuters wirephoto)

Maradona involved in scuffle

TRIGORIA, Italy, July 6, (Reuters): Diego Maradona, who leads Argentina against West Germany in Sunday's World Cup final, was involved in a scuffle with security officials outside his team's training camp, police said today.

They said the clash took place at the gate of the camp after Maradona's younger brother Raul was stopped in a sports car by police and failed to produce identity papers.

Raul took one of the Argentine captain's two Ferraris out for a spin late yesterday evening, but he was stopped by officers in a patrol car who said he was carrying neither driving licence nor identification.

Raul was escorted back to the camp where Diego Maradona's wife Claudia Villafane vouched for his identity.

Witnesses said punches were thrown in the scuffle which broke out between Maradona and several of his relations on the one hand and camp security officials on the other.

The trouble followed accusations that Raul had been stopped out of an Italian desire for revenge for being knocked out of the World Cup by Argentina, they added.

A police spokesman said two security officials suffered slight arm injuries in the scuffle, but no charges would be brought.

England seek 3rd place

Italians also want to win



England's Mark Wright trips West Germany's Juergen Klinsman during Wednesday's game. (Reuters wirephoto)

BARI, July 6, (Reuters): Sunday's World Cup final may be the focus of attention but neither England manager Bobby Robson nor his Italian counterpart Azeglio Vicini are taking their third-place playoff lightly.

Robson wants victory tomorrow as a send-off present before he leaves the England hot seat to take charge of Dutch club PSV Eindhoven.

Vicini wants it to maintain Italy's tournament record of being unbeaten in regulation time and to highlight the quirk of fate which put both teams into the playoff instead of the final.

Italy, three times champions, and England, who won in 1966, were both beaten in the semifinals on penalty shootouts after extra time against Argentina and West Germany respectively ended in draws.

"We want to win at all costs," said striker Aldo Serena, one of the two Italians who missed from the penalty spot in the semifinals.

Vicini, who will stay with Italy at least until the 1992 European Championship, said: "We want this victory."

But he admitted his squad, depressed at the semifinal outcome, were still trying to find the motivation for tomorrow's match in Bari.

"I think the application and the determination will be there — maybe the enthusiasm is lacking at the moment but I hope it will be there."

One man determined to play, despite suffering a groin strain against Argentina, is striker Salvatore Schillaci who hopes to console himself with the title of leading goalscorer of the finals.

"I hope we can finish well against England," said Schillaci who is also nursing a badly bruised and grazed arm after a clash with the Argentine defence. "I am going to try to play whatever happens."

England, who had never before reached the semifinals on foreign soil, will have to do without the talented Paul Gascoigne, suspended for one match after collecting two bookings.

"It is a real shame for Gazza that he is out," Robson said. "In my opinion he has been the best young player of the World Cup, one of the revelations."

Robson said he would field the strongest side possible.

Probable teams:

Italy — Walter Zenga; Franco Baresi, Giuseppe Bergomi, Paolo Maldini, Riccardo Ferri, Roberto Donadoni, Fernando de Napoli, Giuseppe Giannini or Carlo Ancelotti, Luigi de Agostini or Nicola Bert; Roberto Baggio, Salvatore Schillaci or Gianluca Vialli.

England — Peter Shilton; Mark Wright or Paul Parker, Gary Stevens or Paul Parker, Terry Butcher, Des Walker, Stuart Pearce; David Platt, Steve McMahon, Chris Waddle; Gary Lineker, Peter Beardsley.

Referee — Joel Quiniou (France)
Kickoff — Saturday 9.00pm (Kuwait time)



Gascoigne kisses his shirt after Linecker equalises. Right: Waddle is consoled by a West German player. (Reuters wirephoto)



W. Germans seek revenge

TURIN, July 6, (Reuters): West Germany, runners-up in the last two tournaments, aim to turn the tables on 1986 conquerors Argentina in Sunday's World Cup final in Rome after riding their luck in a penalty shoot-out with England.

The West Germans survived a severe test by England on Wednesday when they won 4-3 penalties after a 1-1 extra time deadlock to become the first nation to contest three straight finals.

The scoreline matched Argentina's surprise defeat of hosts Italy in the other semifinal in Naples on Tuesday and gave the West Germans the chance to avenge their 3-2 defeat by the South Americans in the 1986 final in Mexico City.

It propelled the West Germans into their sixth final in the last 10 World Cups, a remarkable record run which started with victory over Hungary in 1954 and was highlighted by the 1974 triumph on home soil by the side led by their present team chief Franz Beckenbauer.

The sequence included a 4-2 defeat in the 1966 final by England, whose 1990 successors were unlucky to be denied in Turin's Stadio Delle Alpi.

Goalkeeper Bodo Illgner, beaten by the first England spot kick, emerged as the West German hero by saving the fourth from Stuart Pearce before Chris Waddle ballooned over the fifth.

But Illgner would prefer not to have to show his prowess in another sudden-death duel on Sunday.

"We don't want penalties in the final, I hope we can do it in normal time," he said.

Yet fortune has smiled on West Germany in all their previous World Cup campaigns with victories in shootouts in their last three journeys to the final.

They ousted France in the first World Cup penalty duel in the 1982 "thriller" in Sevilla's semifinal in Spain and repeated the trick against hosts Mexico in the quarterfinal four years later.

"I'm delighted we've made the final, whether it's through penalties or not," said Guido Buchwald, who nearly made the shoot-out unnecessary when he struck the post two minutes from the end of extra-time.

England were also denied by the woodwork when Waddle, served on the left by a neat Trevor Steven header, blazed a left-foot shot against the far post just before the turn-around in extra-time.

Gary Lineker, whose two goals from the penalty spot saved England in their quarterfinal against Cameroon, gave England the lifeline they deserved when he pounced in the area after a Paul Parker cross and scored in the 81st minute.

Andreas Brehme took a deflection off Parker and soared over veteran England goalkeeper Peter Shilton.

West Germany were the dominant force in extra-time but were otherwise matched in spirit and endeavour by England, for whom Paul Gascoigne was outstanding in midfield.



Brehme (centre) leaps into the arms of Illgner. (Reuters wirephoto)

The West Germans surpassed Brazil's record by making their 67th appearance in a final tournament.

But they could not exercise the superiority they might have expected after the compelling form of their first five World Cup outings in Milan and England's uneven passage to the last four.

They were hampered by the departure of Rudi Voller near the end of the first half with a trapped nerve in his leg. The striker recovered sufficiently to join in the victory celebrations and should be fit to face Argentina.

Beckenbauer said he would not underestimate Argentina despite their loss of four key players through suspension.

"I hope Sunday's game will be as good as tonight's. If so it will be a good advertisement for football," he said.

He took away with him the good wishes of England manager Bobby Robson. "All the best, it's your turn to win," Robson told Beckenbauer before they went their separate ways after the match.



W. German players celebrate their win. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bilardo works on tactics for World Cup final

TRIGORIA, Italy, July 6, (Reuters): Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo yesterday began working out ways to win the World Cup final and ironically could use a West German tactic to do it.

His options are limited, however, by having four first-choice players suspended for Sunday's clash in Rome's Olympic stadium.

"The match with West Germany will be like a game of chess and they already have a piece I wanted to play," said Bilardo.

When Argentina won the World Cup in Mexico in 1986, Bilardo played three men at the back and five in midfield with the playmakers on the flanks doubling as full-backs.

The coach said he wanted to replace the flanking midfielders with forwards to inject greater speed into the team as they broke into attack.

He said West German coach Franz Beckenbauer had already used this approach.

"West Germany allow greater freedom in midfield," he said, suggesting he might copy their method.

But Bilardo has complained about not having had enough time with his players before the tournament to refine strategy and the absence of key players could be a deciding factor in the re-run of the 1986 final.

Bilardo said replacements are available and there were no injury problems but the new players were short of match practice.

Bilardo made an unprecedented five changes after the shock defeat by Cameroon in the opening match but gave no indication of the changes he will make for Sunday's match.

When Argentina beat Italy 4-3 on penalties in Tuesday's semifinal, after the match ended 1-1, three Argentine players were booked for the second time in the tournament and one, Ricardo Gustin, was sent off.

Striker Claudio Caniggia, who scored the equaliser against Italy, and 1986 veterans Gustin, Sergio Batista and Julio Olarucochea are automatically suspended.

West Germany reached their third successive final by beating England 4-3 on penalties in Turin on Wednesday night after drawing 1-1.

Jose Serrizuela, who has been playing as a stopper, is another candidate for midfield.

Serrizuela, aged 28 and captain of Argentine champions River Plate, has only seven caps but is experienced at top club level.

Team doctor Raul Madero said Jorge Burruchaga and captain Diego Maradona would have time to recover from muscle

aches after playing two successive matches that went to extra time.

Maradona has asked Italians to forgive him for ending their World Cup dream.

Maradona told reporters: "I don't want to be an enemy. I ask all Italians to forgive me and I ask for understanding."

"Behind me was my country. I had to win."

Maradona, who has taken Napoli to two League titles, added: "I know how much Italy loves its national side and I know that millions of people must have suffered a lot. I am really sorry."

Maradona angered Italians before the semifinal match by exhorting Neapolitans to cheer for him instead of Italy.

He tried to exploit both his god-like status in the poor southern port city and Neapolitan resentment against the rich north.

After the semifinal defeat, which sent soccer-mad Italians into national mourning, hooligans threw stones at his Naples house, breaking windows. They fled when the police arrived.

The pairing of Argentina and West Germany in the World Cup final has undermined the reputation of Italy's wizards.

Before the tournament began they foresaw a final between Italy and champions Argentina. The two countries met in

one of the semifinals, Argentina winning a penalty shoot-out.

Three organisations grouping most of Italy's soothsayers — the European Professional Association of Wizards, the European Astrological Association and the Italian Association of Wizards — were also wrong in predicting that the Soviet Union and Brazil would reach the last four.

England and West Germany contested the other semifinal.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl will watch West Germany play Argentina in Sunday's World Cup final in Rome. That's the good news.

The bad news is that he also watched West Germany's defeat by Argentina in the 1986 final in Mexico City.

"We're not superstitious. We're really not superstitious. He's cordially welcome, but if he feels like reconsidering..." West German team chief Frank Beckenbauer said with a smile.

The fourth of July was celebrated on the fifth of July in Rome on Thursday to avoid a clash with the World Cup.

US ambassador Peter Secchia delayed his Independence Day reception by 24 hours so guests would not miss Wednesday's semifinal in Turin, in which West Germany beat England in a penalty shoot-out.



West Germany's Rudi Voller (centre), midfielders Lothar Matthaus (left) and Andreas Brehme have a chat during training in Oggiono. (Reuters wirephoto)



Mexico's Edgardo E. Codesal, Cup referee



Argentine players jump during a practice session at Trigoria ground in preparation for the final against West Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kiwis pay for sending home side in

England batsmen on top

BIRMINGHAM, England, July 6. (Reuters) Graham Gooch was on the brink of a memorable century in the third and final Test at Edgbaston after a decision to send England in to bat backfired on New Zealand captain John Wright yesterday.

At the end of the rain-shortened opening day, Gooch was unbeaten on 95 and England were well-placed with 191 for the loss of only one wicket.

Play was held up until an hour after lunch but then Gooch and Mike Atherton did their best to make up for lost time.

The half-century was on the board in just over 12 overs and together they powered their way to 170 for the opening partnership.

Atherton, again playing with tremendous composure, looked set to score his second century of the series but after he had made 82 he played across a delivery from seamer Martin Snedden and was adjudged leg before.

His 176-ball innings included 12 boundaries and he helped Gooch establish England's highest first wicket partnership for four years.

Gooch was in even more imperious form, also hitting 12 fours and pulling spinner John Bracewell for a six. During the course of his innings, Gooch became only the 11th English batsman to have scored more than 5,000 runs in Test cricket.

Alex Stewart was the other not out batsman at the close with



Wright unbeaten on 95

eight runs on the board.

Newly-knighted Richard Hadlee, playing in his final Test, had no success, conceding 55 runs from the 18 overs he sent down.

England were forced to make

their first change in the series when seamer Phillip DeFreitas pulled out with a virus infection. Chris Lewis, 12th man for the first two matches, was brought in to make his Test debut.

New Zealand also fielded a debutant with 19-year-old Adam Parore coming in for wicketkeeper Ian Smith who has a hamstring injury.

Wright, celebrating his 36th birthday by winning the toss for the third time in the series, chose to field but the outcome would have been the same had Gooch won.

Team manager Micky Stewart said England would have opted to bat if the choice had been theirs. "Graham was going to bat if he had won the toss although we didn't quite know what was going to be in the wicket when the covers were rolled away. In this country you expect movement after the covers have been on for some time," Stewart said.

"But the pitch was slower than we imagined it would be and the conditions certainly favoured batting."

He praised the positive approaches of Gooch and Atherton and said England would attempt to press on in similar vein in an effort to get a minimum of 400 runs quickly to have enough time left to force a series-clinching victory.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings	
G. Gooch not out	95
M. Atherton lbw b Snedden	82
A. Stewart not out	8
Extras (lb-1 nb-5)	6
Total (for one wicket)	191
Fall of wicket: 1-170	
Bowling: Hadlee 18-2-55-0, Morrison 12-4-48-0, Snedden 14-3-39-1, Bracewell 18-6-48-0	

To bat: A. Lamb, R. Smith, N. Fairbrother, J. Russell, C. Lewis, G. Small, E. Hammonds, D. Malcolm.

New Zealand medium-pacer Martin Snedden has announced his retirement from Test cricket.

Snedden, 31, and playing his 25th and final Test against England at Edgbaston, is quitting to concentrate on his legal practice in Auckland and also to spend more time with his family.

"I've decided I have probably done what I wanted to do and there are other things happening in my life that should be given priority," he said.

He made his Test debut against India in 1980 but struggled to hold a regular place in the New Zealand side until three years ago.

Snedden retires when he is bowling as well as at any stage in his career which has seen him take 54 Test wickets at 38.16 apiece.

With the departure of Hadlee, Snedden's retirement leaves a large gap in New Zealand's seam bowling ranks.

West Indies have called off a proposed tour by an England A squad later this year, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) said yesterday.

A TCCB spokesman said West Indies had notified them that they were unable to host the tour and England had now approached Pakistan to stage an alternative tour there.

England have adopted a policy of organising A tours to give experience to budding Test players.

Yankees fined for tampering with Winfield

NEW YORK, July 6. (Reuters) The commissioner of Major League Baseball yesterday ordered the New York Yankees to pay the California Angels \$200,000 for violating tampering rules involving the trade of outfielder Dave Winfield to the Angels in May.

Commissioner Fay Vincent also fined the Yankees \$25,000 for violating the rule.

The Angels claimed that Yankees owner George Steinbrenner interfered with their trade with the Yankees for Winfield and forced California to purchase Winfield's contract in order to have him play for them.

The tampering charges stemmed directly from Steinbrenner saying he was willing to take Winfield back for the Yankees, just as the outfielder was preparing to present his case before an arbitrator in an attempt to have the trade to the Angels declared void.

The Angels finally completed the trade for pitcher Mike Witt only after Winfield bargained to a three-year, \$9.1 million contract extension.

Results

Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday	
American League	
Minnesota 7	Boston 4
Milwaukee 4	Oakland 3
Seattle 4	Cleveland 1
Kansas City 15	Detroit 1
Toronto 9	California 2
Texas 3	Baltimore 2
National League	
St Louis 4	San Diego 1
Montreal 11	Houston 0
Cincinnati 9	Philadelphia 0
N.Y. Mets 9	Atlanta 6
Pittsburgh 9	Los Angeles 6

Barnett and Moxon hit centuries

Kallicharran to quit at end of season

LONDON, July 6. (Reuters) As Graham Gooch and Mike Atherton gave England an excellent start against New Zealand at Edgbaston, two former Test batsmen dominated their championship matches yesterday.

Kim Barnett and Martyn Moxon, captains of Derbyshire and Yorkshire respectively, both scored 123 on a day that belonged to batsmen.

Barnett scored his century as Derbyshire rattled up 361 for seven in 82 overs against Sussex at home with Moxon at Yorkshire's first championship century of the season — and his own first championship century for more than a year — as his side reached 304 for three at Scarborough after Nottinghamshire put them in.

Barnett's hundred was his 31st first class century for Derbyshire and bettered the county record set by Denis Smith, who retired 38 years ago. Chris Adams chipped in with 91 and Peter Bowler

with 50. Ashley Metcalfe scored 75 in an opening stand of 175 with Moxon.

Other batsmen in fine form were Mark Benson and Graham Cowdrey of Kent, who shared an unbeaten partnership of 239 as Kent raced to 269 for two against Essex at Maidstone before bad light and rain ended play 50 minutes early.

They came together with the score at 30 for two and Benson, playing his first game for three weeks after breaking a finger, finished unbeaten on 141 with Cowdrey not out on 104.

At the Oval opening batsmen Darren Bicknell and Graeme Clinton also enjoyed a huge partnership, staying together throughout the 72 overs possible to put on an unbeaten 251 for the first wicket against Northamptonshire, with Bicknell on 131 and Clinton 108.

Scores

At Taunton: Somerset 270 in



Alvin Kallicharran

92.5 overs (P. Roeluck 114 not out; J. Benjamin four for 86; D. Reeve three for 47) and 15 for no wicket. Warwickshire 152 for four declared in 41.2 overs (G. Humpage 67, Asif Din 45).

At Hove: Derbyshire 363 for seven declared in 84.1 overs (K. Barnett 123, C. Adams 91, P.

Bowler 50, B. Roberts 47; A. Pipeott four for 69) v Sussex.

At the Oval: Surrey 251 for no wicket off 72 overs (D. Bicknell 131 not out, G. Clinton not out 108) v Northamptonshire.

At Swansea: Glamorgan 334 for eight declared in 108 overs (R. Croft 68, M. Maynard 63, N. Cowley 44, V. Richards 41) v Gloucestershire.

At Scarborough: Yorkshire 304 for three off 95 overs (M. Moxon 123, A. Metcalfe 75, P. Robinson 47 not out) v Nottinghamshire.

At Maidstone: Kent 269 for two off 91 overs (M. Benson 141 not out, C. Cowdrey 104 not out) v Essex.

Former West Indian cricket captain Alvin Kallicharran is to retire from cricket after completing his contract with Warwickshire at the end of the season.

"I am not able to carry on playing with injuries at my age," the 41-year-old left-hander said today.

Fencing tourney

LYON, France, July 6. (Reuters) Soviet veteran Alexander Romanov, a 10-time winner, starts a new campaign for gold in the World Fencing Championship starting tomorrow.

Romanov, 36, has already won a record five individual gold medals.

But Romanov can expect stiff competition from Frenchman Philippe Omnes, the current leader in the world standings, and Italian Andrea Borella.

Azharuddin, Prabhakar bat well

SOUTHAMPTON, England, July 6. (Reuters) Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin and Manoj Prabhakar each hit half centuries as the touring side gained some valuable batting practice in their rain-hit match against Hampshire yesterday.

The visitors scored 278 for seven before declaring at tea on the second day after the first day's play was washed out by rain. Hampshire were 117 for two at the close.

Azharuddin (74) and Prabhakar (76) shared a fifth-wicket stand of 148 in 36 overs after losing openers Woorkeri Raman and Navjot Singh cheaply to 21-year-old West Indian pace bowler Linden Joseph.

Indian batting prodigy Sachin Tendulkar hit four boundaries in a brisk 32 to give a glimpse of his potential before he slashed at a ball from Dutchman Paul-Jan Bakker and was caught.

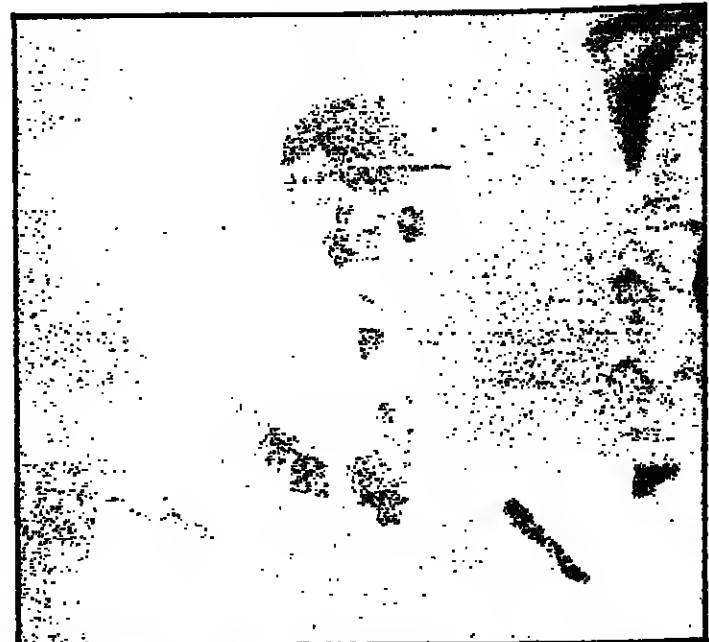
However Tendulkar was forced to leave the field after Hampshire began their innings when a shot from David Gower hit him in the mouth when he was standing at silly point.

He suffered a cut lip and a loosened tooth and was to see a dentist today.

Gower drove and pulled a series of fours and one huge six to reach an unbeaten 44 at the close.

Scoreboard

INDIA first innings	
W. Raman c Terry b Joseph	26
N. Sidhu c Terry b Joseph	6
S. Tendulkar c Terry b Bakker	32
D. Vangarskar c Parks b Connor	21
M. Azharuddin b Ayling	74
M. Prabhakar c and b Maru	76
N. Mungia not out	14
V. Reju c Parks b Maru	18
Extras (lb-6 lb-3 nb-2)	11
Total (for seven wickets, declared)	278
Bowling: Bakker 22-1-84-1, Joseph 10-2-28-2, Connor 14-4-43-1, Ayling 15-2-45-1, Maru 16-4-1-89-2	
Fall of wickets: 1-22-2-39-3-78-4-92-5-240-6-267-7-278	
Did not bat: S. Sharma, A. Kumble, N. Hirwani	
HAMPSHIRE first innings	
P. Terry c Raman b Prabhakar	5



Azhar (above) and Prabhakar (below) share a partnership of 148. (Reuters wirephoto)



C. Smith c Raman b Hirwani 24 Total (for two wickets) 117 M. Nicholas not out 37 Fall of wickets: 1-132-55. D. Gower not out 44 To bat: T. Middleton, J. Ayling, L. Joseph, R. Parks, R. Maru, C. Connor, P.-J. Bakker.

Ballesteros gets first hole-in-one

MONTE CARLO, July 6. (Reuters) Severiano Ballesteros notched his first tournament hole-in-one after 15 years on the world's golf circuits yesterday as Briton Mark Mouland took a firm grip on the Monte Carlo Open.

Mouland fired a second round 67 for a eight-under-par total of 130 and a two-shot lead ahead of Australian Wayne Riley, who boosted his bid for a first tour title with 64 which included four birdies and an eagle.

Needed

Five players shared third place a stroke further back on 133, including defending champion Mark McNulty of Zimbabwe (66) and Briton Ian Woosnam who needed only 23 putts with his new putter in a total of 67.

Riley admitted: "I've struggled for the last two years but still earned almost £100,000 (\$178,000) around the world last year alone. This week the ball is coming off the club better and I'm starting to hole a few putts."

The Ballesteros ace came with an eight iron at the 157-yards second.

Foster wins again

VIGO, Spain, July 6. (Reuters) Greg Foster won his second 110-metre hurdles victory in 24 hours in an international athletics meeting yesterday.

Foster cruised home in 13.49 seconds, ahead of fellow American Renato Nehemiah.

Olympic champion and world record holder Roger Kingdom, beaten by Foster in East Berlin on Wednesday, was left at the start, apparently because of a faulty starting block.

The wind that usually blows runners to fast times at Vigo failed to materialise. A promising 100-metre duel between Leroy Burrell of the United States and Jamaica's Raymond Stuart ended in a slow 10.37-second win for the American.

Brazil's Joaquim Cruz fought off a challenge by Burundi's Dieudonne Kizwera in the 800-metre race to clock a winning time of one minute, 45.91 seconds. In the 400 metres Danny Everett scored a comfortable 44.98-second win over fellow Americans Danny Harris and Clarence Daniel.

Scorched

And in East Berlin, fiery Jamaican sprinter Merlene Ottey scorched to victory in the 100 and 200 metres at a Grand Prix athletics event on Wednesday, overshadowing the track return of East German star Heike Drechsler.

Ottey timed a classy 11.01 seconds in the 100 metres against a slight headwind to beat East German Katrin Krahe's 11.30 and then raced both again in the 200 metres, a Grand Prix event, an hour later.

In that race, 100 and 200 metres Olympic bronze medalist Drechsler joined the line-up but faded in the final phases to finish fourth in 22.74, never threatening the dynamic stride of Ottey. The Jamaican clocked 21.94 ahead of Krahe on 22.46.

Drechsler had better luck in the long jump in Stockholm on Monday when she won the event with a leap of 7.04 metres. She took maternity leave after the Seoul games.

Drechsler did not compete in the long jump in East Berlin's Ludwig Jahn Stadium, opting for a tussle with Ottey, the indoor 200-metre world champion.

England's defeat sparks riots at home; West Germans jubilant



Police hold down an England fan outside a Hertfordshire pub. (Reuters wirephoto)

LONDON, July 6. (Reuters) Beer can brigades of youths enraged at England's World Cup loss to West Germany swept through towns and villages across the country overnight, killing one person and injuring dozens of police in a fury of football hooliganism.

"There was one lad with red hair shouting, 'smash, smash, smash,'" said Malik Hussein, a restaurant owner in Peterborough, central England, where 250 rioters shattered more than two dozen shop windows on Wednesday night.

At least 600 youths, enraged at England's 4-3 defeat against West Germany in Italy on Wednesday night, were arrested across England in town centres resembling battle zones, police said yesterday.

In Totton, southern England, a 33-year-old man died after being knocked to the ground trying to reason with a mob.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she was appalled by the "mindless vandalism and hooliganism." Her father's former shop, now the premier restaurant, was among the businesses damaged in rioting in Grantham, eastern England.

The violence, which erupted as youths spilled out of bars and parties carrying beer cans and bottles, appeared to catch authorities off guard. Public attention had been focused mainly on the behaviour of English fans in Italy.

European and British sports officials have said the fans' conduct at the championship would determine whether English clubs would be allowed to compete again in Europe.

Ecstatic Germans rushed into the streets in West Berlin, honking horns, lighting fireworks and waving flags Wednesday night in celebration of their World Cup penalty shootout victory over England and a berth in the final.

Minutes after the 4-3 penalty victory to break a 1-1 draw after extra time in Turin, hundreds of jubilant West Berliners flocked to the city's ritzy Kurfuerstendamm Boulevard, launching fireworks and shouting "Germany Germany Germany."

A caravan of cars filled with fans waving German flags drove

up and down the streets, and spectators cheered them on, some pounding on the roofs of cars.

More than an hour later, the boulevard was jammed with cars and traffic was at a standstill as the jubilation continued into the night.

Germans drove through the streets in Frankfurt and Bonn, as well, honking horns in celebration. In downtown Frankfurt, fans hung out of windows and shouted "Deutschland wunderbar," or "Germany wonderful."

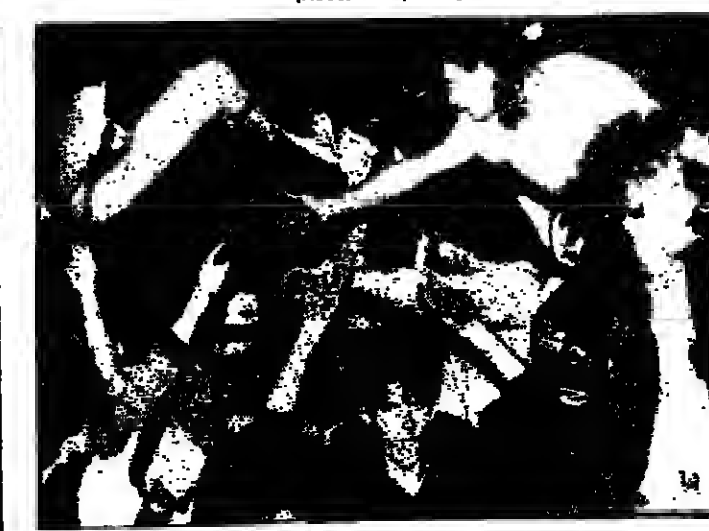
"It's a super day for Germany," said Michael Hodel, a 30-year-old truck driver from West Berlin. "It was a fantastic match, and we played extremely well. I'm certain we can win it all in the finals."



Police wearing riot gear advance on England fans in Hertfordshire. (Reuters wirephoto)



A scantily dressed W. German female soccer fan celebrates her team's win. (Reuters wirephoto)



West German fans celebrate their team's win in West Berlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Schwartz aims to close gap on compatriot

BRUSSELS, July 6. (Reuters) American Kevin Schwartz knows it will take more than victory in tomorrow's Belgian Motorcycle Grand Prix at SPA to close the 24-point gap on world 500cc championship leader Wayne Rainey.

He is banking on his compatriot running into trouble. "All I can do is keep winning the races and hope that Wayne has problems," Schwartz said.

With seven more rounds to go, Rainey has 148 points against 124 for Schwartz, who pulled off his third win in four races in the Dutch Grand Prix at Assen last week.

Despite Schwartz's recent successes, however, the odds are stacked against him. He has yet to rid himself of a reputation of crashing at the worst possible moments.

Finished

Rainey on the other hand is nicknamed the "Mister Consistency" of the 500cc riders and has finished in the first two in the first eight rounds of this year's championship.

Schwartz gave a perfect example of his erratic riding during last year's Belgian Grand Prix when the Texan daredevil, famous for his hair-raising driving on sharp bends, crashed on the final lap.

The fast, picturesque seven-km Ardennes circuit is considered one of the most dangerous.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Brazil honoured

ROME, July 6. (AP): Brazil's 1970 championship, making it the first nation to win the World Cup three times, was named the winner of the Mastercard Greatest Moment Award yesterday. Carlos Alberto, captain of that team, which also included such greats as Pelé, Rivelino and Jairzinho, accepted the award, which was voted on by 1,200 members of the media. "This is a great honour for me," he said. "This is a great moment for Brazil football."

1998 tourney

ROME, July 6. (Reuters): France made a formal bid to host the 1998 World Cup finals, the second country to stake a claim during the 1990 tournament. France's bid, presented by French soccer federation officials to FIFA President Joao Havelange at a reception in Rome, came the day after a similar request by Morocco. Havelange said other bids were expected from Switzerland, Portugal and Brazil.

Formula One

TOKYO, July 6. (Reuters): The Japanese car-maker which supplies engines for the Coloni Formula One Grand Prix motor racing team is pulling out of the sport because of rising costs and big company losses. Japan's Fuji heavy industries, maker of Subaru cars, said today it would withdraw from Formula One racing after the British Grand Prix on July 15.

Chili injured

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium, July 6. (Reuters): Italian motorcycle rider Pierfrancesco Chili crashed during practice for tomorrow's Belgian 500 CC Grand Prix today, breaking his wrist and hurting his neck. Chili, currently seventh in the world championship standings, was flown to hospital by helicopter where the wrist was put in plaster. A spokesman for his Honda team said the neck injury was not serious.

Knockout system

ZURICH, July 6. (Reuters): Fifa is to think again about the World Cup knockout system, general secretary Sepp Blatter said today. He told the Tages Anzeiger newspaper that the finals had seen a return to what he called the "old European safety-first football." There had been no new trend. "That isn't the purpose of the knockout system," Blatter said.

Two changes

BRISBANE, Australia, July 6. (Reuters): Australia made two changes today to its rugby union team for a one-off Test against the American Eagles here on Sunday. Queenslanders Sam Scott-Young and Anthony Herbert replaced Jeff Miller and centre Paul Cornish who had been included in the team announced earlier this week but failed fitness tests at training.

Cup team

WIMBLEDON, England July 6. (AP): Jennifer Capriati has been named to the US Federation Cup team, which will seek to defend its title later this month.

Cup players honoured

YAOUNDE, Cameroon, July 6. (AP): President Paul Biya awarded Cameroon's highest civilian honour today to two stars of the national soccer team, and decorated all the players and coaches for their strong showing at the World Cup.

Biya said the team had provided a lesson to Cameroon and all of Africa — "to struggle in unity in order to triumph."

Goalkeeper Thomas Nkono and forward Roger Milla, who came out of retirement at 38 to score four goals in Italy, were named Commanders of the Order of Valor in a ceremony at the presidential palace.

The other players and coaches were named as officers or knights of the Order of Valor or the subordinate order of merit for helping the Indomitable Lions become the first African team to reach the World Cup quarterfinals.

Garrison ends Graf's Wimbledon reign

Edberg shatters Lendl's dream

WIMBLEDON, England, July 6. (AP): Ivan Lendl lost again in his bid to win a Wimbledon title today, falling to Stefan Edberg who will face Boris Becker in the final for the third consecutive year.

The third-seeded Edberg did not lose his nerve in the 6-1, 7-6, 6-3 victory over Lendl and never was seriously threatened by a man who has made no secret of his desire to win the only Grand Slam title to have eluded him.

Becker appeared rattled as he lost the first set 6-4 to hard-serving Ivanisevic, the first unseeded player in the semifinals since 1986, but rallied against the 18-year-old.

After coming within two points of losing the second set, the defending champion regained his confidence by winning a tie-breaker and then finished off Ivanisevic 6-0, 7-6.

Sunday's final will have a familiar look. Becker defeated Edberg in three quick sets in last year's final, avenging his loss to the Swede in the 1988 championship match.

Lendl never seemed to warm up on a chilly day and at times exhibited the wooden, mechanical play he has struggled to overcome.

"Of course it's disappointing when you lose and you don't play well," Lendl said. "I couldn't get into the match. He didn't give me anything and I couldn't create anything."

Despite dedicating months of hard work to developing a serve-and-volley game, Lendl showed he still is no match at Wimbledon for a natural grass-court player such as Edberg.

"I felt my first serve wasn't hurting him enough," Lendl said. "I felt I didn't move well. I was a half-step slow."

Edberg lost only 20 points in his 15 service games and faced just one break point in the match,



Edberg raises his arm in victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

midway through the second set.

"He put his aim on this and he tried everything he could do," Edberg said. "He must be feeling a little sad, but I have to do my job. I want to win this one."

Lendl converted only 57 per cent of his chances at the net, as opposed to 79 per cent for Edberg. The top seed made 13 errors at the net, while Edberg had just five, and was passed 19

times.

It was not simply Lendl played poorly. Edberg was too good. The Swede continually rocketed service return winners past Lendl and sent unreturnable low returns to the net-rushing Lendl.

Edberg overwhelmed an erratic Lendl with two service breaks in the opening set. After each player held his serve throughout the second set, the

Swede closed out a 7-2 tie-breaker with a pair of service return winners past a shell-shocked Lendl.

Edberg broke Lendl's serve in the sixth game of the final set.

Zina Garrison conjured up the best result of her career yesterday to book a dream ticket to the Wimbledon women's final and a meeting with fellow American Martina Navratilova.

Garrison, the fifth seed, produced a surprise even greater than her quarter-final win over Monica Seles when she toppled defending champion and top seed Steffi Graf 6-3 3-6 6-4 in an astonishing upset on centre court.

Navratilova had fewer alarms against fourth seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, winning 6-3 6-4 to reach her ninth Wimbledon final in succession and her 11th in all.

Navratilova's fond hopes of winning a record ninth title will hinge on whether she can halt Garrison's remorseless progress through the draw.

On a blustery centre court Garrison scarcely seemed to notice the difficult conditions or acknowledge the identity of her opponent as she completed a memorable and well-deserved success in two hours and four minutes.

If she manages to win the title on Saturday, Garrison will be the first black woman's champion since American Althea Gibson took the singles crown in 1957 and 1958.

After winning the match in perfect fashion with her fourth ace, Garrison said she had never played better.

"To beat Monica and Steffi back-to-back definitely makes this my most consistent tournament. To win one more match would be a dream come true," she said.

Graf, uncharitable in defeat, claimed that Garrison had no chance in the final.

"I think now it's pretty sure to be Martina's tournament," said the West German after seeing her game undermined by Garrison's tenacity and newly-discovered poise on the big points.

With the watching Princess Diana wrapped up in blankets in the royal box in an effort to keep out the chill wind, Garrison turned up the heat on Graf by taking the first set, attacking the net at every opportunity.

Graf, chasing her 17th successive win at Wimbledon since her last defeat to Navratilova in the 1987 final, broke Garrison twice in the second set to square the match and, as in her match with third seed Seles, Garrison was forced to draw deep on her reserves of character.

A superb backhand down the line at break point in the third game of final set gave her the crucial edge and she remained rock solid on her serve amid mounting pressure to reach an elusive first Grand Slam final.

Garrison felt that Graf, who dismissed suggestions that poor health or personal problems were to blame for her defeat, was less confident than of old.

"You can slow her down now," she said. "Now she takes a step back when she misses a shot or loses a point."

Navratilova proved that at 33 she remains a formidable obstacle to the younger generation on her favourite grass surface.

She roared into a 4-0 lead against a tentative Sabatini and although the Argentine fought back impressively to 4-3, the match turned in the ninth game.

Sabatini failed to convert six game points on her own serve and Navratilova punished her immediately, seizing a 5-4 lead and serving out for the first set in 37 minutes.



Navratilova gives the thumbs up sign to friends after beating Sabatini. (Reuters wirephoto)



Lendl fails to win the Wimbledon in yet another attempt. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ivanchuk stays on top

MANILA, July 6. (Reuters): Soviet Vassily Ivanchuk kept first place with a draw today and Switzerland's Viktor Korchnoi moved into second spot with his third victory in the Manila chess eliminations for the 1993 World Championship.

Ivanchuk remained in the lead after seven rounds with 5.5 points by drawing with fellow Soviet Boris Gelfand in 22 moves of a Gruenfeld defence.

Korchnoi, a Soviet defector who is the second oldest player in the competition, crushed Joel Lautier of France in 34 moves of a Sicilian defence to climb into a three-way tie for second place with five points.

He was tied with Gelfand and another Soviet grandmaster, Alexei Dreev, who defeated Kiril Georgiev of Bulgaria in 46 moves to a Slav defence.

A two-time challenger for the world title against then champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union, Korchnoi refused to talk with reporters after the match.

A slight edge in the opening with the white pieces allowed Gelfand to produce a passed pawn, but Ivanchuk used his queen to force the draw and block the path of the pawn.

"The position (became) equal," said Gelfand. Seven other players were tied to third place with 4.5 points each, including Nick de Firmian of the United States and Nigel Short of Britain, the highest placed Western players in the competition.

Bauer keeps yellow jersey

VITTEL, France, July 6. (AP):

Steve Bauer of Canada kept the yellow jersey of the overall leader of the Tour de France today as Jelle Nijdam of the Netherlands won the final sprint to capture today's sixth stage, a 202.5-kilometre (126-mile) leg from Sarrebourg to Vittel in eastern France.

Jesper Skibby of Denmark, Johan Museeuw of Belgium,

Giovanni Fidanza of Italy, Vintyaslav Ekimov of the Soviet Union and Guy Nulens of Belgium finished with Nijdam, ahead of the main pack.

Two-time champion Greg Lemond is still more than 10 minutes behind, but is expected to narrow the margin in tomorrow's 61.5-kilometre (38-mile) time trial from Vittel to Epinal.

Record entry for 1992 Games soccer tourney

ROME, July 6. (Reuters): A record 126 countries will play in the qualifying rounds for the 1992 Barcelona Olympic soccer tournament, FIFA general secretary Joseph Blatter said today.

"This is the highest number of countries ever to have taken part in a FIFA (International Football Federation) competition," Blatter told a news conference in Rome.

"The figures show the enormous interest in the game and its increasing importance in developing countries," he said.

Sixteen teams will take part in the finals which will be held in five stadiums in four cities — Barcelona, Valencia, Zaragoza and Sabadell.

Europe will provide five or six teams, depending on the result of a play-off with the Oceania qualifier. Africa and Asia will each have three places while South America and North and Central America and the Caribbean (Concacaf) will each provide two qualifiers.

The competition is open to all players, amateur or professional, provided they are under 23 years old during the finals.

Mansell takes provisional pole



Prost puts in ear plugs before his practice run. (Reuters wirephoto)

LE CASTELLET, France, July 6. (AP): Nigel Mansell of Britain turned a day's best lap of 213.142 kph (132.441 mph) today, gaining the provisional pole for French Grand Prix.

Mansell drove his Ferrari around the 3.81-kilometre (2.37-mile) Paul Ricard circuit in 1 minute, 44.02 seconds, 147 seconds ahead of Ayrton Senna of Brazil, whose lap of 212.493 kph (132.181 mph) in a McLaren-Honda put him second after the first day of qualifying.

Alain Prost of France also completed a lap under 65 seconds, putting him and his Ferrari third with a speed of 211.691 kph (131.681 mph). Mansell set the course qualifying record at 1:06.454, 206.403 kph (128.393 mph) in 1987. This year however, the track was resurfaced and made faster.

Ricardo Patrese of Italy was fourth in a Williams-Renault with Senna's teammate, Gerhard Berger of Austria, next. Patrese's best time was 1:05.059 for a speed of 210.823 kph (131.143 mph), while Berger turned a lap in 1:05.350, 209.883 kph (130.557 mph).

Thierry Boutsen of Belgium was tentatively sixth in a Williams-Renault, completing his best lap in 1:05.446, 209.583 kph (130.370 kph).

Another qualifying session is scheduled for tomorrow. If Mansell's time holds up, it will be Ferrari's first pole for the season. McLaren-Hondas have dominated, winning all six pole positions so far.

McLaren team chief Ron Dennis said the wind was a problem for his drivers, too.

"The wind is a problem at absolutely the worst point, directly hitting up the back at Signes," he said. "And if you're not flat out at Signes, you're not going to make the time."

Despite the buffeting, Mansell shaved two seconds off his previous qualifying record of 1:06.454, set in a Williams Honda in 1987.

Dennis said if the wind dropped the times could go as low as the 1:02s in tomorrow's final qualifying.

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Editor in Chief:
Ahmed Al-Jarrah

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Telex:
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Telephone:
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